

Wednesday July 1 1998

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The Guardian

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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR

G2 cover story

Neighbours at war?

With European weather

Women

My son, the gangsta rapper

Alan Stalker on losing Tupac

Society

NHS: What the next 50 years could bring...

G2 pages 12-13

Racist 5 face fresh charge

Evidence studied by inquiry chief

David Pallister

THE five men suspected of murdering Stephen Lawrence could face perjury charges after their two days of evidence ended yesterday with them fleeing from the inquiry building under a hail of missiles from an angry crowd, who then turned on the police.

The inquiry chairman, Sir William Macpherson, will examine the transcripts of their answers in the witness box to see if he should refer the papers to the Attorney General.

On a number of occasions, Sir William reminded some of the five that they could be prosecuted for telling lies to the inquiry.

Legal sources who have studied their evidence suggested last night that a reference could be made for at least two of the suspects.

Observers who have followed the case closely believe that a number of obvious inconsistencies and evasions could lead to a crown court prosecution for perjury. This carries a sentence of seven years and would open up another forum for the men to be questioned under oath.

Yesterday's climax to the three-month inquiry — with youths throwing bottles and cans at police behind their riot shields — ended a five-year wait for the Lawrence family to see the five men being forced to answer questions in public.

But their protestations about not being knife-carrying racists did little to assuage the frustration of Stephen's parents, Doreen and Neville.

Nor did an extraordinary handwritten statement issued by the five after the last, Gary Dobson, left the witness box.

Badly spelled, it read: "In 1998 we were all arrested for the murder of Steven [sic] Lawrence, which we all vehemently deny."

"We do sympathise with Mr and Mrs Lawrence and the tragic loss of their son. We understand their quest to discover what happened to their son and why no one has been convicted of his murder."

"We have no knowledge of this murder, we were not involved, we did not kill Steven [sic] Lawrence."

"Our lives have been changed forever — we will fight these accusations until we are satisfied that our names have been cleared."

While the stand-off between the police and about 50 youths continued outside, Mr and Mrs Lawrence said: "Today has been a very stressful day. We have heard first-hand from three of the suspects,

but we feel they have been coached and are lying. "They keep saying they can't remember and show no remorse whatsoever. It is clear that they are racist and violent. For us the struggle continues until we get justice."

Yesterday's hearing, after the invasion on Monday by a group of Nation of Islam black nationalists, opened calmly with David Norris, Luke Knight and Dobson due to appear.

They all claimed that evidence of their racist language and fondness for knives was youthful immaturity and "silly humour."

At one stage, Michael Mansfield QC, for the family, abruptly stopped his questions and insisted that David Norris's mother should stop protecting his answers.

Further evidence was introduced by Mr Mansfield to show that Norris's father, Clifford, a convicted criminal, had been responsible for witness hounding and jury knocking in another case where his son was acquitted of attempted murder.

At the end of the men's evidence, a crowd had gathered in the street where they were expected to be driven away. Over the next hour the crowd, became increasingly hostile.

At first there were minor scuffles with the police. But when it became apparent that the five were about to leave, the crowd pressed up against the police lines drawn up to protect them as they came down the ramp from the Elephant and Castle shopping centre in south London.

They emerged at a run with their hands covering their heads as the crowd started throwing bottles, cans, fruit and eggs. At the end of the ramp they threw themselves into a white mini-bus which sped away with a police car escort in front.

The apparent ease of their escape caused the crowd to erupt into more anger and as about 60 police withdrew they were followed by mainly black youths hurling abuse and whatever came to hand.

As the police regrouped under a railway bridge and more reinforcements in three vans arrived, a bottle bank was smashed open and more missiles were thrown. Although the police produced their riot shields, helmets, and, at one stage, batons, few of the hundreds of people lining the street seemed ready for a confrontation.

The inquiry resumes today for a further two days with evidence from the Crown Prosecution Service about why it felt unable to prosecute the youths in 1993 and 1994.

Lawrence inquiry, page 8; Leader comment, page 11

Ecstasy and agony as England's World Cup clash with Argentina goes to extra time



Alan Shearer is joined by David Beckham and Michael Owen in celebrating the penalty with which England drew even at 1-1 against Argentina last night

PHOTOGRAPH BY ROSS KINNARD



John Dunne in St Etienne

ENGLAND'S World Cup campaign hung in the balance last night as their second round match against Argentina went into extra time.

After 90 minutes the teams were level at 2-2. In a thrilling first half Shearer scored, a penalty and Michael Owen a solo effort to put his team ahead, but the second half was marred by a gratuitous foul by David Beckham who was sent off.

England had been once again cheered on by 15,000 fans in the 36,000-capacity

Geoffrey Chaucer stadium in St Etienne with Union flags and flags of St George fighting for space against the Argentine blue and white. The atmosphere in the ground was electric, with the 5,000 Argentinians noisy before kick-off and during the match and the English roaring their side on and dominating the stadium as they had in Marseille, Toulouse and Lens.

England came into the match hoping to wipe away lingering memories of the defeat by Argentina in the 1996 quarter-final in Mexico when Diego Maradona scored the infamous "Hand of God" goal and followed it

with a glorious second. The game was England's most important since the 1990 semi-final with West Germany when England went out on penalties in Turin.

England's World Cup campaign has been a whirlwind of ups and downs — from the exclusion of Paul Gascoigne, the defeat by Romania, the violence of Marseille to the wins against Colombia and Tunisia and the glorious goals of Scholes and Beckham in those games. England were battling last night for the right to go to Marseille to face Holland as one of the favourites for the tournament but also to avoid the ignominy of going out of the tournament at this stage for the first time since 1998.

The English supporters had enjoyed a relaxed day of singing and chanting in the bars and squares of St Etienne. The atmosphere was noticeably more relaxed than for any of the team's previous games.

Interest in the game in

England was phenomenal, the only comparison possible was with the Euro 96 semi-final against Germany in 1996 when England lost on penalties watched by a record 26.2 million people. Television experts were predicting an even bigger armchair army, surpassing the record by two million for last night's game.

Sports section, page 15

Police in £6m payout

Force surrenders record sum to settle malicious prosecution claim

Duncan Campbell Crime Correspondent

NEARLY £6 million was paid in damages and costs to settle a case brought by a Manchester businessman who claimed he had been ruined by a malicious police prosecution, it was disclosed yesterday.

It is understood that £2.3 million was paid in damages alone in what is believed to be the most expensive case brought against the police.

The costs of the case involving Kevin Taylor emerged yesterday at a Commons home affairs committee hearing. Mr Taylor claimed he had been maliciously prosecuted for fraud to discredit his friend, the former deputy chief constable of Greater Manchester police, John Stalker.

Mr Stalker had been conducting an inquiry into allegations of an RUC "shoot-to-kill" policy at the time details

of his association with Mr Taylor emerged in 1986. As a result of the allegations, Mr Stalker was removed from the inquiry.

Stephen Murphy, chairman of the Greater Manchester police authority, told the committee yesterday that its insurers had advised settlement of Mr Taylor's claim because the costs of the case were fast approaching the agreed limit of £5 million.

"If we had wanted to fight the case to the bitter end," said Mr Murphy, "the cost could have been double."

He said that, as Mr Taylor was legally aided, the costs would have come out of the police budget whoever won the case.

The Chief Constable of Greater Manchester police, David Wilmore, who was not attached to the force when the prosecution was launched against Mr Taylor, told the committee's chairman, Chris Mullin, that he was bound by

a court order not to release the details of the settlement. He said if ordered to he would do so.

Mr Wilmore accepted that the settlement was probably the largest made by the Greater Manchester force.

Asked by Mr Mullin if he had read Mr Stalker's book about the affair, Mr Wilmore said he had not.

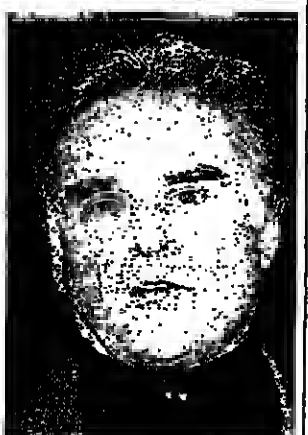
He said he believed there was absolutely no connection between the prosecution of Mr Taylor for fraud and Mr Taylor's friendship with Mr Stalker.

Mr Taylor, a property developer in Exeter, Lancashire, claimed there had been a high-level conspiracy to have Mr Stalker removed from the inquiry.

Mr Taylor came under investigation when a unit was set up by the then Chief Constable, Sir James Anderson, to investigate him.

He was prosecuted for allegedly defrauding the Co-operative Bank of £200,000 but the case collapsed amid claims that the police had fabricated evidence.

Mr Taylor's business also turned to page 3, column 5



"All talk of transforming the arts and changing society can be dismissed as Utopian, and this century has taught us to be sceptical of offers of Utopia. I've nevertheless always felt depressed by people who aren't stirred by Wilde's epigram: 'A map of the world that does not contain Utopia is not even worth glancing at.'"

Sir Richard Eyre (above) gives his anatomy of the troubled Royal Opera House — Page 4.

Obituaries 9; Leader 11; Crossword 14

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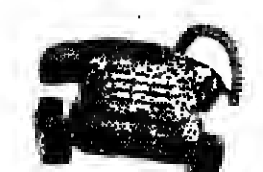
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Review

Of supertankers and St Trinian's



Simon Hoggart

I MUST have been the sweetest moment of Frank Dobson's career. "As I speak," he told the Commons yesterday, "hospital waiting lists are coming down."

Labour backbenchers, who have not yet learned the approved parliamentary form of cheering, a sort of low-throated rumble like the tumblers of a hundred sleeping clubmen, shouted "Hoo-ray!" They sounded like the girls of St Trinian's learning that their headmistress had just turned down.

The lists had stopped growing in May, Mr Dobson went on, and began coming down in June. "The supertanker has turned round."

Ann Widdecombe flopped up to the dispatch box. She is very well groomed these days, but she should still be careful in the vicinity of tuna nets.

She invited Dennis Skinner, who had asked the question, to join her in congratulating the Tories for the way they had nurtured the NHS for most of its life. Mr Skinner made crucifix-waving gestures at her.

She said that the figures were, so far, only estimates. Mr Dobson replied, with the air of one explaining a Yankee Accumulator bet to a particularly dense St Trinian's girl, that it was "a first step—like the first step taken outside by all those convicts who escaped when she was prisons minister."

That was a scrambled sort of libel, but like a golden goal in the World Cup, however inelegant, it ended the match.

It was that kind of question time, short-tempered and bitchy. Alan Duncan, Ms Widdecombe's sidekick, wanted to know whether Tessa Jowell, the junior health minister, thought she would cut teenage smoking "by publishing a glossy magazine about health targets, containing 32 pictures

of herself. Do you see yourself as a sort of ministerial nicotine patch?"

Vernon Coaker (Lab. Gedling) suggested a more subtle approach. "We have to present to them the idea that smoking is uncool," he said. The problem is that the last people to lecture anyone on the subject of cool are MPs. "I say, kids, put down that gasper! Try one of these healthy crunch bars, instead. They're very cool, and packed with nutritious vitamins!"

Both sides claimed credit for the NHS—Labour for founding it, the Tories for having been in charge during 34 of its 50 years. David Winnick said that this was the perfect chance for the Tory Party to apologise for having done everything it could to prevent the NHS from coming into being.

And why stop there? How about an apology for the partition of India? Or the Corn Laws? Now that the Labour Party agrees with the Tories on almost everything, perhaps they should apologise for socialism?

Peter Tapsell talked about Nye Bevan, "whom I liked and admired." Apparently Nye went private during his final illness. Mr Tapsell pronounced his name wrongly, to rhyme with "divan," and he died the year after Mr Tapsell entered Parliament, so it can't have been a particularly close friendship. Possibly like mine with Winston Churchill.

Labour MPs jeered merrily. Then Angela Browning asked the Viagra question. Would the minister promise it would only be prescribed through hospitals, and not by GPs, who already had tight budgets for drugs.

The minister, Alan Milburn, rose and uttered the single word: "Yes." Then he sat down. Every one looked astonished. They thought the point about Viagra was that it kept you up for hours.

Minutes later they gave a first reading to a bill to end "junk" faxes. I agree, though it takes some nerve for MPs to complain about unsolicited approaches. Even outside elections, our letter boxes are stuffed with campaign material, and strangers bang on our door asking for our votes. That can be even more annoying than a fax promising to sell you Viagra, cheap.

In *The Guardian* tomorrow: Inside the secret world of the men in the dark suits and red bow-ties

Cook rages at MPs' tactics

Leading Foreign Office diplomat 'was bullied' over Sierra Leone

Ian Black
Diplomatic Editor

ROBIN Cook, the Foreign Secretary, faces a stormy encounter with backbench MPs probing the Sierra Leone controversy after insisting yesterday that they were wrong to bully the Foreign Office's top diplomat.

And in a sharp rebuff to members of the all-party foreign affairs select committee, Mr Cook said he was furious about the affair, stating emphatically that there had been

no ministerial "conspiracy" or "connivance within Whitehall" to breach a United Nations arms embargo imposed against the west African country.

With an internal Whitehall inquiry already under way under Sir Thomas Legg, any parallel investigation would be prejudicial, the Foreign Secretary argued in a strongly worded letter. To summon officials was "unfair to the officials and unreasonable on the part of the select committee."

"If the select committee wishes to persist in putting questions on these matters,

they must put them directly to myself as head of the FCO and not to officials who are accountable to me," Mr Cook wrote.

The Legg enquiry is examining allegations that ministers and officials may have known — and later denied knowledge — of a customs investigation into Sandline International, accused of illegally shipping arms to Sierra Leone after the overthrow of President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah in May 1997.

But with MPs still divided over what many see as their constitutional right to question the Government, the committee ignored Mr Cook and again summoned Sir John Kerr, permanent under-secretary at the FO — though he resisted answering almost

every question put to him in an often irritable two-session. "Cook is getting really angry with all this," one official said. "He feels Sir John is being bullied and put in an impossible position for a civil servant."

The Foreign Secretary is now likely to give evidence to the committee in mid-July.

Sir John gave little ground during his third grilling. "In order not to prejudice the inquiry, I have to fence off the area where the inquiry may roam," he told MPs. "I do not know where it is roaming. The beast may roam wherever it wants."

But Labour MP Ted Rowlands retorted: "It is entitled to roam, then we are."

Asked if he thought Mr Cook's letter was prejudicing

the Legg enquiry, Sir John snapped: "I am not going to conduct an exegesis of the Foreign Secretary's letter."

He also rounded on the Conservative MP David Wills, who had described one of his arguments as "preposterous."

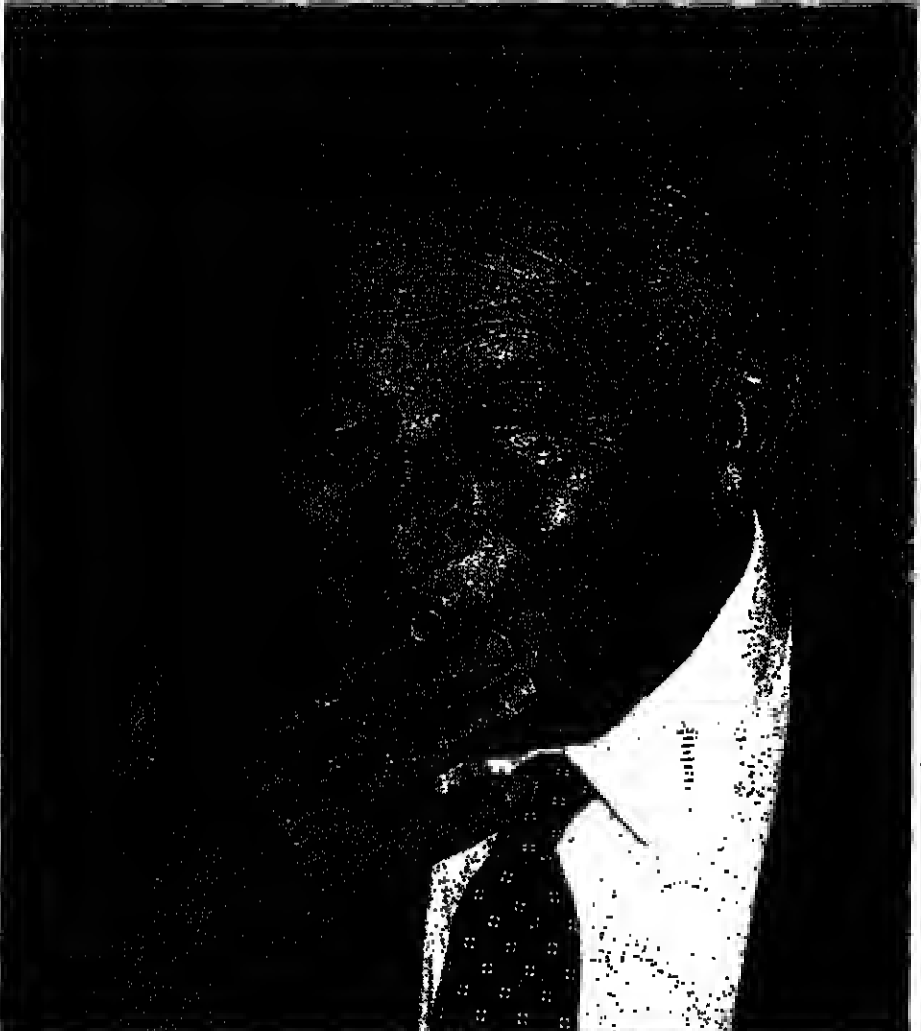
Sir John accused Mr Wills of making a "preposterous distinction" between the issue of arms supplies to Sierra Leone and the subsequent Customs investigation.

The Legg inquiry, due to be completed by the end of July, is thought likely to pin the blame for the affair on Peter Penfold, the British high commissioner to Sierra Leone, as well as ordering a review of the internal flow of documents in the FO. If a ministerial scalp is required, it is expected to be that of Tony

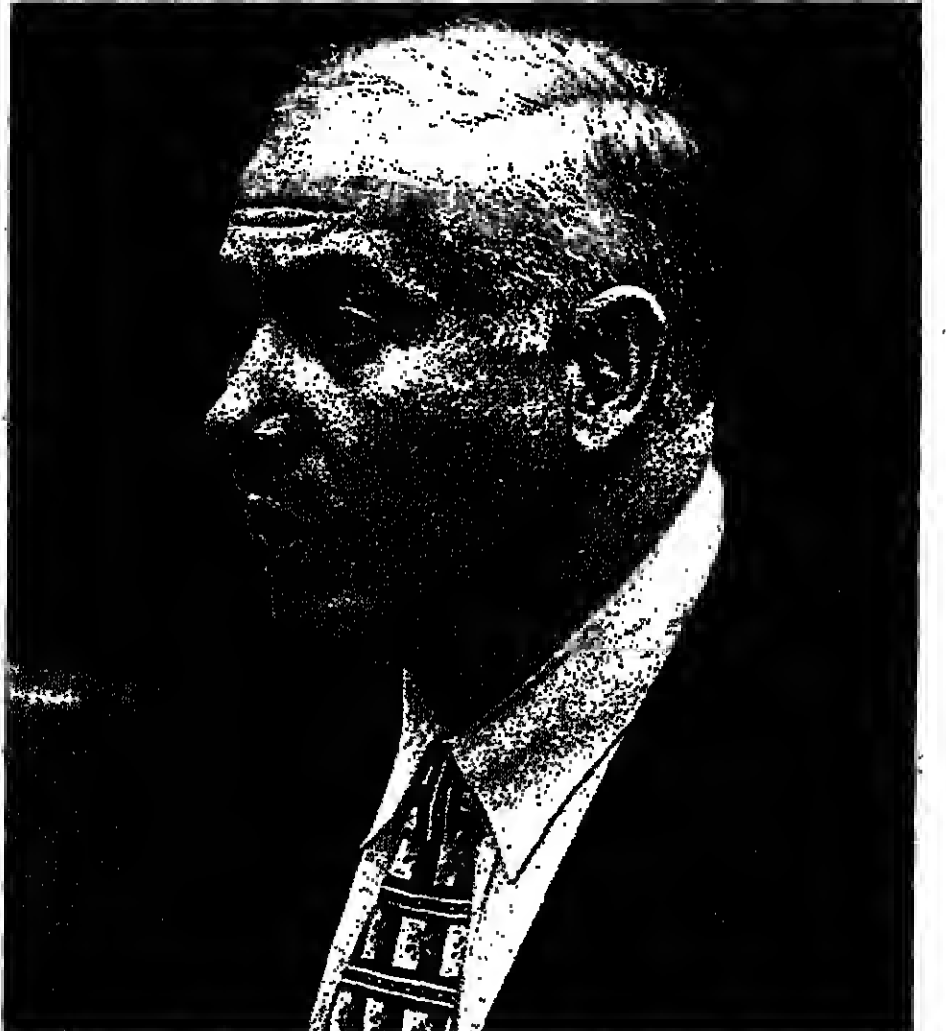
Lloyd, minister of state for Africa. Junior minister Baroness Symons, like Mr Lloyd accused of misleading Parliament over the affair, is said to be safe.

Just one new fact emerged yesterday, though officials at first said "no military personnel" were left in Sierra Leone after the coup. Sir John made clear that a British military intelligence liaison officer had been deployed to Conakry, capital of neighbouring Guinea, on February 15 and moved to Sierra Leone in March. His job was to advise the High Commissioner and report back to the Ministry of Defence in London.

Michael Howard, shadow foreign secretary, later accused Mr Cook of attempting to gag the committee.



Weizman: 'The peace process is not going anywhere'



Netanyahu: 'I spend all my time trying to achieve agreement'

Israeli president savages Netanyahu

Weizman calls for early elections in fury at stalled peace process

David Sharrock
in Jerusalem

ISRAEL'S President Ezer Weizman has thrust aside the traditional limits of his office and unleashed a furious attack on the prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, for his handling of the Middle East peace process, in what was seen yesterday as the first stage of an attempt to topple the government.

President Weizman said the sooner a general election was held the better and accused Mr Netanyahu of using him falsely to convince foreign leaders he was sincere about

moving the peace process forward.

"I reached my red line," he said in television interviews. "I am not willing to help Netanyahu any longer. It is not possible that everyone is angry at us — the US, Europe, President Mubarak, King Hussein — and only we are right."

"The peace process is not going anywhere and no one should try and tell me otherwise."

In a furious response, Mr Netanyahu reportedly told his advisers: "What is he doing getting involved? He has no authority to call early elections."

"What does he think, that

he is running the state? I am the boss here."

Officially, Mr Netanyahu's office yesterday said it would not be dragged into a conflict with the president. But the prime minister insisted the next general election would take place on schedule in 2000. "I spend all my time, night and day, doing one thing alone, trying to achieve a good agreement based on peace and security for the state of Israel," he said. "No pressure, no person, no thing will divert me from this goal."

Mr Weizman said elections should be held "as soon as possible". Although his presidential role is largely symbolic, he wields significant power by dint of his prestige among ordinary Israelis.

On the eve of the last elections Mr Weizman served Mr

Netanyahu's interests when, in the name of the voice of the people, he attacked the assassinated prime minister Yitzhak Rabin and his successor, Shimon Peres, and called for a slow-down in negotiations with the Palestinians.

But Mr Weizman's fuse blew two weeks ago when he abruptly cancelled his attendance at a major economic conference, blaming Mr Netanyahu for having deceived him about the status of the next troop withdrawal from the occupied West Bank.

In interviews, Mr Weizman described how Mr Netanyahu had asked him to convince King Hussein of Jordan and the Egyptian leader Hosni Mubarak that the peace process was moving ahead rapidly.

The Hebrew daily Ha'aretz

yesterday dubbed Mr Weizman the "new leader of the opposition" and said his intervention would make it more difficult for moderates in Mr Netanyahu's divided coalition cabinet to remain.

The president's intervention comes as the United Nations Security Council is due to consider a resolution condemning Israel's decision to create a municipal council in Jerusalem.

Jerusalem covering Jewish settlements in the West Bank. Mindful of opposition to any resolution, Britain's ambassador at the UN, John Weston, suggested the council might instead adopt a statement issued by the council's presidency, which would not carry the same weight as a resolution.

A draft of the resolution

also calls on Israel to stop illegal settlement expansion, saying it constitutes "a major obstacle to peace."

On Monday night Mr Netanyahu further angered supporters of the peace process by attending a gala dinner and concert in support of a rightwing group that purchases land and settles Jews in mainly Palestinian east Jerusalem.

"We will build for the Jews and for the Arabs, because we are the landlords here and the landlords build for all those living in their house," Mr Netanyahu told the 6,000-strong gathering.

The prime minister was booed when he mentioned homes for Palestinians, but he asked the audience to refrain from chanting "Death to the Arabs."

Review

Precise mix of musical talents

Andrew Clements

Peter Diamond Tribute
Concert
City of London Festival,
Barbican Hall

A CONCERT that boasts a line-up of Claudio Abbado, Daniel Barenboim, Teresa Berganza and Radu Lupu isn't just every day's event. But Monday's tribute to Peter Diamond, the German-born Dutch impresario who was the artistic director of the Edinburgh Festival in the 1960s and 1970s and who died in January, brought them together — the kind of special mix of talents that had been one of the strengths of Diamond's own festival programming.

All of the performers had a special relationship with Diamond. It was he who gave Barenboim his first opera to conduct at Edinburgh in 1970, who introduced Lupu to the festival, and who persuaded Berganza to sing the role of Carmen in a production, conducted by Abbado, that was one of the highest summits of his Edinburgh directorship.

All these elements were woven into this skilfully judged programme, which carried the charge of impromptu, inspired music-

making. A celebration it may have been, but there were no short cuts in the standards of performance: the way in which Barenboim, reunited with the English Chamber Orchestra, pumped up the musicians for the overture to The Marriage of Figaro signalled that the articulation was razor sharp, the woodwind solos precisely characterised.

Barenboim and Lupu then played Mozart's Concerto for Two Pianos and their ensemble was miraculous, with a wonderful flow of ideas between the two intriguingly contrasted pianists.

After the interval, and a short, expertly judged spoken tribute to Diamond from John Drummond, Lupu returned to play Brahms's Three Intermezzi Op 117, paying his respects to Diamond's memory with utter intimacy and total understatement.

Then, before Abbado closed the concert with extracts from Schubert's Rosamunde score, it was Berganza's turn. With Abbado now in charge of the ECO she delivered a sly, knowing aria from Rossini's Turco in Italia, and then, naturally, the Habanera from Carmen. Peter Diamond, surely, would have loved it.

This review appeared in some editions yesterday.

Regretful Fay Weldon says death is worse than rape

Lucy Patton

FAY Weldon yesterday said she regretted an interview in which she said rape "isn't the worst thing that can happen to a woman".

Ms Weldon, the 66-year-old novelist and former feminist icon, said she should have told the reporter that the "worst thing", in fact, was

death. She was criticised by women's groups after the Radio Times interview which said she had called for the criminal charge of rape to be changed to aggravated assault.

The magazine quoted her as saying her remarks were an appeal to society to stop "glamorising" rape. Ms Weldon yesterday said she wished she had rephrased her comments and stressed that

she supported the work of anti-rape organisations.

The novelist, speaking on Channel 5, said: "I did say those words, but what I said next wasn't quoted: that rape's not the worst thing that can happen to a woman — death is."

"If it has stirred up a change to rape laws then I am pleased. It's not nice for me to be in this position but as it stands the rape laws aren't

working — it's very hard to get a conviction."

"The police are excellent, the rape crisis centres do great work, but the courts are a nightmare for the victim."

In the article, Ms Weldon said she was drawing her conclusions from first-hand experience when a male friend tried to rape her in the back of a taxi.

"It was nasty, but didn't

shatter my view of men. The man simply wanted sex. Now it's unfashionable to say this, but rape isn't the worst thing that can happen to a woman if you're safe, alive and unmarked afterwards."

Yesterday she said in a statement: "I want the chance of rape to be upgraded as a crime, not downgraded."

"This is what comes of talking about rape to a male journalist. For all I care, rapists can be strung up from lamp-

posts. Rape is a banal, evil and hideous assault."

The Radio Times later said it was "surprised" at her statement, adding: "Andrew Duncan [the reporter] was so concerned at the sensitivity of the subject, he talked again with Ms Weldon. In response she confirmed, in writing, the words that were reported in the Radio Times."

Polly Toynbee, page 10

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Away days

The royal trip from their visits to cheap days away



Princess of Wales visits South West coast, 12 Feb 1998, £200,000

The Queen's visit to the South West coast, 12 Feb 1998, £200,000

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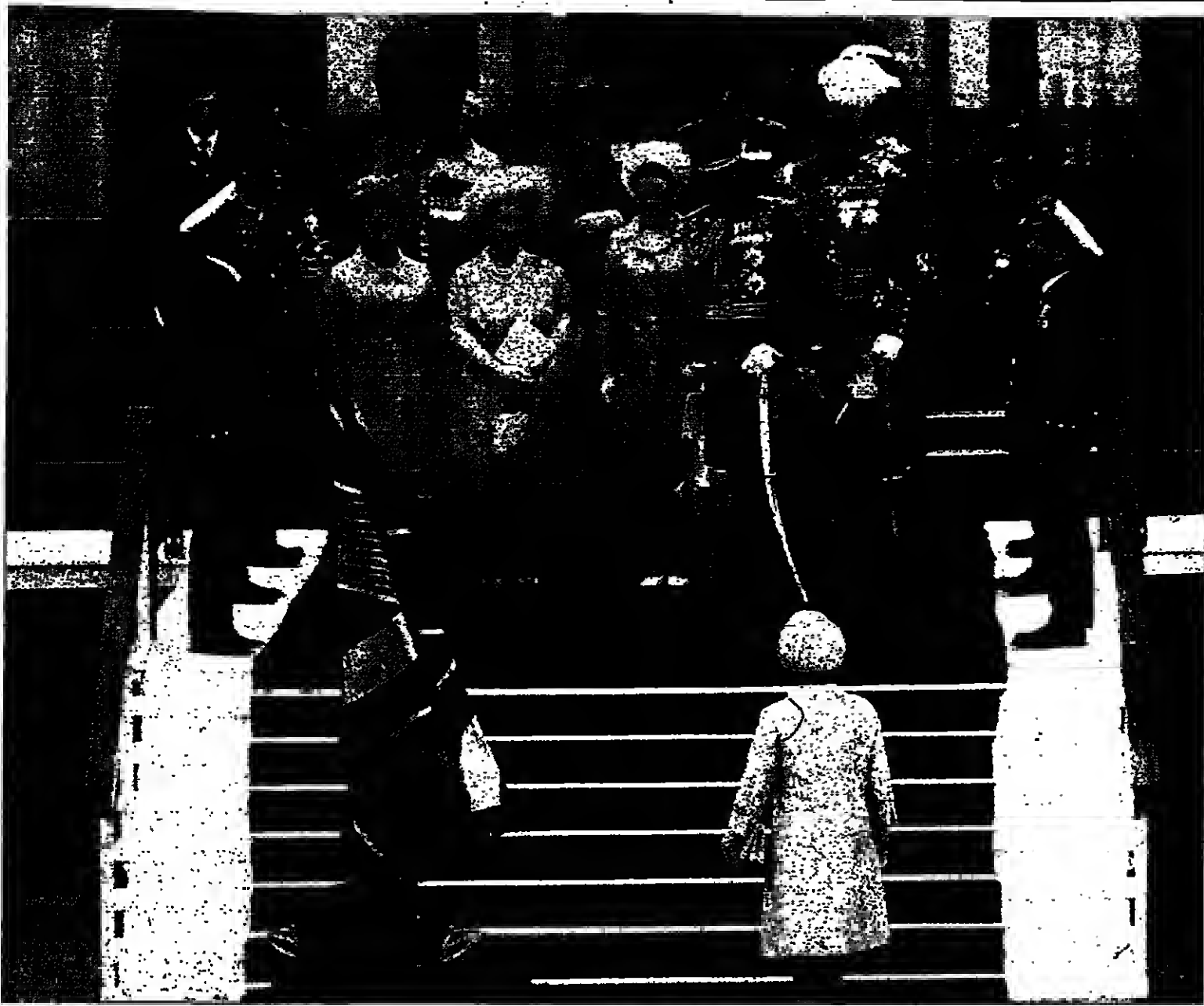
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Old style: Members of the Royal Family ready to board the royal train, which last year was used for only 19 journeys

PHOTOGRAPH: TERENCE SPENCER

Day return to Epsom - £11,843

Queen's day at the races cost a bomb, but the royal travel bill is down, reports **David Hencke**

THE Queen spent £11,843 using the royal train for a 45-mile round trip to spend a day at the races — a return journey available to ordinary passengers on the same line for 25p a head, it was revealed yesterday.

The Queen's trip to watch the Derby emerges as the most expensive journey by any member of the royal family last year, according to the first annual report on travel costs released by Buckingham Palace yesterday.

The 45-minute journey from Victoria to Tottenham Corner cost around £250 a mile — nearly double the average £135 per mile for rail journeys taken by the royals last year.

The cost of maintaining the 14-coach royal train with its two locomotives runs at more than £1 million a year, yet it was used for only 19 journeys last year. Most of the journeys involved overnight trips to the West Country and the North but the costs run to between £11,000 and £14,000 a time.

As a result, Sir Michael Peat, the Keeper of the Privy Purse, yesterday said that the train's use may be scaled down by selling some of its sleeker carriages. Already the Queen is starting to use

scheduled services — spending just £821 on a trip to Grantham and £1,632 on a chartered train to Swindon for another visit.

Other members of the royal family have gone further, by using budget fares for some royal engagements to save money. The Duke of Edinburgh, aged 71, and Princess Margaret, 67, have used senior citizen passes to obtain big discounts on first-class rail travel. Prince Philip paid £43.40 for a first-class return to Cambridge when he attended an event at the University of the Pacific, Princess Margaret spent £22.60 on a return ticket to Brighton when she opened a youth club.

The Princess Royal is also saving money — she spent £22.45 on a cheap-rate first-class single fare from Kenilworth to Paddington to attend a Beffa awards ceremony.

The Royal Household reclaimed some travel costs associated with the funeral of Diana, Princess of Wales, by claiming on her insurance cover.

The undisclosed cost of the Prince of Wales flying by Royal Squadron jet from Aberdeen to Paris for RAF Northolt and back to Aberdeen and Belfast last August 31 to accompany the princess's coffin was covered by insurance and reclaimed on behalf of the

public purse. The report reveals that most of the £17.3 million spent by the royals last year went on air travel.

The Queen's state visit to India and Pakistan was the most expensive — more than £457,000 was spent on air travel. Other expensive trips included £51,200 for chartering a jet for Prince Charles to attend the handover of Hong Kong to China and more than

£10,000 for him to fly to and from Belmora for a weekend.

The overall cost of the royal family's transport — excluding a huge unknown bill for security — is falling. It dropped from £54 million to £45 million last year, largely through the decommissioning of the royal yacht, Britannia. But Sir Michael is also cutting the overall budget for travel and maintenance on



New style: the Prince of Wales and Prince Harry aboard the Eurostar for France last week

PHOTOGRAPH: JOHN STILLWELL

the royal palaces. Sir Michael said: "Substantial savings have been achieved, without compromising the standard of the service provided for some 3,000 engagements, of which some 1,200 were met from the grant-in-aid, carried out by the Royal Family last year throughout the UK and overseas." A further 5 per cent saving is planned for the current year by the Palace.

A new helicopter procured and operated directly by the Royal Household came into service on April 1, which is expected to result in a saving of £1.4 million in this financial year.

It is hoped that the cost of the royal train can be further reduced to less than £1 million in 1998-99, he said.

Royal rip-off, page 10

Monet waterlilies set £20m record

Luke Harding

A PAINTING of the most famous garden in the history of art last night sold for £19,801,500, shattering all records for a work by Claude Monet.

Two frenzied telephone bidders pushed the price for Monet's Waterlily Pond and Path by Water to almost £20 million at Sotheby's, suggesting that good times are back again for the fickle art market.

The price, reached after six minutes of bidding, comfortably shatters the previous £13 million record for a painting by the artist. Waterlily Pond is now the most expensive impressionist work sold by a European

auction house since 1990. Sotheby's had estimated the sale price more modestly at £4-6 million.

The oil painting, executed in 1900, was acquired by a private British collector in 1954 and has not been shown in public since then.

The identity of the buyer is a mystery. "We are still totting up the figures for the total auction," a jubilant Sotheby's spokesman said last night. "It's been a very very good night."

Monet was passionate about flowers and intrigued by landscape architecture. In 1893 he purchased a plot of land which adjoined the rural house in Giverny, near Paris, where he had moved 10 years ear-

lier. A small stream ran through the plot, and Monet turned the garden into a horticultural paradise.

Monet worked tirelessly during the summer months, producing 12 pictures in 1899 and six in 1900. The oil sold last night shows the left section of his water garden, with the Japanese-style footbridge and path gently curving through patches of purple frises and tall grass.

"It took me some time to understand my waterlilies," Monet said in conversation with the author Marc Elder in 1924. "All of a sudden I had the revelation of how enchanting my pond was. Since then I have had hardly any other sub-

ject." Waterlily Pond and Path by the water is now the 11th most expensive ever painting sold at auction. Its sale price is easily eclipsed, though, by another work completed just nine years earlier — Portrait of Dr Gachet — by a then little-known artist, Vincent Van Gogh, which went for \$82,500,000 (£55 million) in 1990.

Last night's sale follows a gradual recovery in the art market — unlike the overheated boom of the late 1980s, where it was focused in just one or two areas. Recent sales of Impressionist and Old Master works have been encouraging — despite allegations that many of Van Gogh's best-known works are fakes.

continued from page 1 collapsed, however, and he lost his home.

Mr Taylor then brought a civil action alleging malicious prosecution. This was settled in 1995 but the details of the agreed damages were never published.

It was suggested at the time that the sum was around £1 million, but the Guardian now understands the figure to have been £2.3 million.

Police pay out £6m to settle businessman's claim

continued from page 1

have run into the millions.

No details of the settlement appeared in the Greater Manchester police authority's annual report, although other major reports, such as the Metropolitan police, publish the totals paid out in damages and claims in their reports.

Mr Murphy and Mr Wilmet agreed with suggestions from MPs on the home affairs committee that such a policy should be considered.

Members of the committee expressed disquiet that such a large sum should have been paid in settlement without the people of Manchester being aware of it.

Mr Stalker declined to comment yesterday. Mr Taylor is bound by his settlement agreement not to discuss the sum.

Legal fees would have taken the total cost of the case to about £8 million. In addition, costs to the police over the course of the investigations and the civil actions during the nine-year period would

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One in 4 women abused — BMA

Sarah Besseley
Health Correspondent

MORE than one woman in four experiences domestic violence at some time in their lives, ranging from being punched, choked or bitten to being forced to have sex against their will, according to a report yesterday from the British Medical Association.

The true extent of the violence meted out by men to their female partners is probably even higher, the report suggests, because many women tell nobody, either for fear of what their partner will do to them or because they do not want him prosecuted or for the relationship to break up. Only a quarter of domestic attacks are reported to police.

A survey in Canada in 1993 of 12,300 women found that nearly one in three (29 per cent) said they had suffered violence at a partner's hand since the age of 16. In the UK, smaller local studies have shown similar results.

A study in Islington, north London, of 571 women and 429 men found one woman in three reported domestic violence and a quarter had been forced to have sex against their will by their partner. In Surrey, another study of 484 women found one in four had suffered violence or been raped.

After family and friends, women are most likely to confide in their doctor, research has shown. But, the BMA says, GPs have tended not to ask questions when a woman is injured or troubled because they have not known what to do if they discover she has been beaten by her man.

Yesterday's report, Domestic Violence: A Health Care Issue, is intended to help

them offer sympathy and advice to women who have been on the receiving end of violence, and their children. In up to 60 per cent of cases, children witness their mother being attacked. In 45 to 70 per cent, the father inflicts violence on the children as well as the mother.

Jo Richardson, a GP and one of the contributing authors of the report, said that in the United States, doctors now asked all women patients as a matter of course whether they suffered domestic violence and there was an argument for doing the same here.

Research showed that women wanted to be asked, she said, but she thought more work needed to be done in canvassing the views of both doctors and patients before every woman could be questioned in the UK.

As well as physical abuse, which includes burning, starving and knifing, and rape and sexual assaults, women suffer psychological abuse, such as being humiliated and degraded, being isolated from family and friends, and being made to think they are going mad, the report says.

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists has already issued advice to its members on dealing with suspected domestic violence, which is more likely to occur in pregnancy. The BMA's report tells GPs that they can make a difference if they intervene.

They should question women they suspect may have been abused, ensuring them of absolute confidentiality — except in exceptional circumstances, such as where there are children in danger. They should find out what agencies exist to help such women and offer information and advice.

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Iraqi anger at US air strike

Richard Norton-Taylor
and Mark Tran

BAGHDAD last night accused the United States of "unjustified aggression" after an American warplane fired a missile at an Iraqi radar site when four RAF Tornados jets came under apparent threat from attack.

The Tornados crews, on a routine patrol enforcing a no-fly zone south of Basra, alerted a US F16 escorting them after an Iraqi radar locked on to their aircraft and two others, the Ministry of Defence said. All the planes returned safely to base.

Iraqi officials denied its radar locked on to the aircraft, describing the action as "proof of the aggressiveness of Americans."

They said the US missile fell 18 kilometres away from the nearest radar.

In Washington, William Cohen, the US defence secretary, described the missile attack as a warning to Baghdad. "We're hoping that the situation won't escalate. It certainly was a signal that we sent that our forces are going to fly the no-fly zone," he told Reuters Television.

Asked why he believed the Iraqis had locked on to the planes, he said: "There is no way to tell what their motivation may have been and what their reaction will be."

Yesterday's incident came at a time when tension in the Gulf appears to have eased. Mr Cohen said it would not alter US plans to continue withdrawing forces from the region. Al Gore, the US vice-president, warned that it

should not be assumed it was a deliberate provocation.

Tony Blair's official spokesman said: "It is probably too early to say what this means but it shows once more the close and effective relationship between the US and the UK on these matters."

The incident follows accusations of Iraqi footdragging in providing information to UN weapons inspectors. Richard Butler, the chief UN weapons inspector, last week said that Iraq was still refusing to provide information on missile, biological weapons and the chemical warfare agent VX, despite Baghdad's claim of a breakthrough on UN arms inspections.

Mr Butler's report to the security council, based on his talks in Baghdad earlier this month, casts doubt on claims that Iraq may soon be free from sanctions — unless the council softens its demand that Baghdad first account for all long-range missiles and nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

Iraq is apparently gambling that its sympathisers — Russia, France and China — will prevail over the United States and Britain and persuade the council to end the sanctions without complete verification that all illegal weapons have been destroyed.

Yesterday's incident is likely to arouse concern among Iraq's friends that Baghdad may undo its recent diplomatic gains.

Russia urged the US to exercise restraint. "It is necessary to localise the incident and prevent its escalation," said foreign ministry spokesman, Vladimir Rakhmanin.

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Eyre report raises prospect of a regulator for the arts, says the ROH will need more cash, and savages Arts Council performance

Royal Opera 'arrogance' condemned

Don Gislester
Arts Correspondent

THE prospect of an arts ombudsman was raised by Sir Richard Eyre yesterday as he unveiled his long-awaited report into the Royal Opera House and the future of lyric theatre in London.

Rejecting privatisation or the merging of the English National Opera and the ROH, Sir Richard condemned the ROH for its "arrogance and presumption". He also criticised the Arts Council for its monitoring of the ROH, its largest client, saying that should the reforms being undertaken at the council not prove sufficient to remedy the situation, the Government should examine the creation of a regulator for the arts, immediately dubbed Ofart.

The Culture Secretary, Chris Smith, who commissioned the report from Sir Richard in November, said it was a "superb job", that "clears the air". Mr Smith has written to both the ENO and the ROH giving them one month to respond to the report.

But Mr Smith will be embarrassed by Sir Richard's key finding that the ROH, once its management and finances have been reformed, cannot survive on its current

levels of subsidy. Sir Richard said: "I've done my best and I've tried to be dispassionate but at the same time I'm very passionate about publicly funded art. My sense of indignation has been aroused by the fact that the pitch has been queered for everyone by the ROH."

Mr Smith had previously said that the solution to the ROH's problems should not be more money from the state. The ROH currently receives almost £16 million a year in subsidy for its two resident companies, the Royal Ballet and the Royal Opera. The ROH chairman, Sir Colin Southgate, recently wrote to Mr Smith pointing out that the company would need twice as much to survive once it reopened next year.

"Doubling the subsidy to the ROH cannot even be considered until its house is put in order," said Mr Smith. But the problem for Mr Smith will be that others will demand the same sort of increase. Paul Daniel, artistic director of the English National Opera, said: "It's an open invitation to send the bill."

But Mr Daniel welcomed the report, which gave the ENO a clean bill of health, saying: "This company could have been the scapegoat to sort everything out for everyone else."

Ian Albery, chief executive

of Sadler's Wells, which also comes under examination in the report, said: "We receive a tiny subsidy compared with other companies, and have been commended for our business practices. Does that mean we will now be granted greater subsidy?"

Sir Colin said: "I think the report is pretty good. All the things that are in there are the sorts of things we put in our submission to Sir Richard."

He rejected criticisms from Sir Richard, and from Mr Smith, for bypassing the Arts Council to appeal directly to Mr Smith for more money. "I come from a business world where if there's a problem you just get on with it and sort it out."

"If you want an international standard opera and ballet company based in your capital city you have to pay the money."

Sir Richard says in the report: "I have frakked through forests of paperwork, and I have soaked in the drizzle of countless litigations of complaint. I have been instructed, exhorted, cajoled and occasionally bored by a number of people, including journalists, prescribing solutions with the confident certainty of 19th century statesmen."



An interloper gets in on the act with Sir Richard Eyre and Chris Smith yesterday

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN ARQUES

FROM THE REPORT:

All talk of transforming the arts and changing society can be dismissed as Utopian, and this century has taught us to be sceptical of offers of Utopia. I've nevertheless always felt depressed by people who aren't stirred by Wilde's epigram: A map of the world that does not contain Utopia is not even worth glancing at.

In my modest Utopia, our corrosive class divisions would dissolve, crime among young men would be curbed, and unemployment would be eased. Our political immaturity would be cured, our insular attitudes towards Europe and our paranoia about our national identity would be dispelled.

I know how to bring this Utopia into being, and so does the Prime Minister: education, education, education. Education could change the economy and employment and attitudes to class and to art and to leisure, to the state, to each other and to ourselves.

Money on its own never produced any art worth having. One can't legislate for talent: it is ineluctable, unpredictable and finite. What money can do is this: help talent to breathe, be educated, be trained, be exercised, be recognised and be enjoyed.

The Government has identified the means of changing this country: the choice is theirs. I do not believe in a fate that falls on men however they act, said Chesterton, but I do believe in a fate that falls on men unless they act.

The full text of Sir Richard's foreword can be found on <http://reports.guardian.co.uk/news/>. The full report is at <http://www.culture.gov.uk/eyre1.pdf>

The report: Companies stay where they are, but must become 'accessible, accountable and cost effective'

Don Gislester
Arts Correspondent

WHAT began life seven months ago as an investigation into the possibility of the English National Opera leaving its Coliseum home to share the Royal Opera House's new lottery-funded redevelopment has grown into a study of the entire lyric theatre sector in London.

In the process it has dragged in innocent bystanders such as Sadler's Wells, and asked questions about art, life, education, culture and the importance of government subsidy for creativity.

Sir Richard Eyre writes in the foreword to the report's executive summary: "All talk of transforming the arts and changing society can be dismissed as Utopian, and this century has taught us to be sceptical of offers of Utopia. I've nevertheless always felt depressed by people who aren't stirred by Wilde's epigram: A map of the world that does not contain Utopia is not even worth glancing at."

He continues: "It is a far from universally acknowledged truth that public funding for the arts is essential and is insufficient."

Declaring that in the past few years the ROH "has inspired righteous indignation, invited mockery, invoked accusations of irresponsibility, overspending, mismanagement and elitism, and begged

questions about the validity of the principle on which all arts organisations receive taxpayers' money," he argues for an overhaul of its management structures and practices, coupled with a change of culture there.

"If the public is prepared to accept that subsidy is a price to be paid for the continuing health of our cultural autonomy, then we must recognise that the quid pro quo is that arts organisations must make their argument for continued existence in the quality and content of their work — and they must also make themselves accessible, accountable and cost effective."

How they should do this is spelled out in the body of the report, which is divided into sections on excellence and access, and value for money and finance.

On the question of access, Sir Richard argues that the ROH should take advantage of its reopening to broaden its audience. "There should be no space in Covent Garden created solely for the use of a privileged few based on status... it must not contribute to a sense of exclusivity."

He also attacks the aura of secrecy and exclusivity surrounding the ROH, saying its relationships with donors should be conducted on a "model of mutual benefit, rather than one that suggests a straight transaction — cash for privileges."

Sir Richard further attacks

the complimentary tickets dispensed by all the lyric theatre companies. "The companies offer an unusually large number of tickets to a wide variety of individuals and organisations as an element of their marketing strategies... I regard this practice as unjustifiable, indefensible and ineffectual."

On the structure of the organisations, he echoes a point made last year by Gerald Kaufman, calling for a board member from the local community. And rather than merely appointing the great and good, he says board members should be given relevant training. He also recommends an artistic director for the ROH, to create an artistically-led organisation.

He opts for the status quo in the location of the companies. The ENO, he says, should stay at the Coliseum, and the Royal Opera and Royal Ballet at Covent Garden — but the ballet should have more importance within the ROH.

Sir Richard is highly critical of the ROH's relationship with its main funding body, the Arts Council, which he says is "characterised by arrogance and presumption". He adds: "Unless the ROH board accept they are a part of the same economy as any other performing arts organisations, they cannot expect to be regarded as participants in a common cause and beneficiaries of public funding."

But the Arts Council too comes under fire for failing properly to monitor its largest client. Government should investigate the creation of an arts ombudsman to oversee its relations with clients, he says.

He also attacks the accounting systems of the ROH and ENO, and recommends that both produce monthly management accounts. He also notes that "the ROH has produced no business plan for the reopened Covent Garden", although "the companies are running substantial accumulated deficits... it is not clear how the ROH intends to tackle this."

He concludes: "My belief is that at the end of this process there will remain a funding gap... [but] it is for the Arts Council and ultimately Government to decide how to address this."

Leader comment, page 11

No miracles — but no punches pulled

Comment: Andrew Clements on bad news and good

EVEN as he was inviting Sir Richard Eyre to delve into the murky waters of the running of London's opera houses, Chris Smith must surely have known that Sir Richard was never going to come up with a neatly packaged solution to all the ills of the ENO and the ROH.

And Sir Richard is not a miracle worker. For all his thoroughness and intelligence of his report, and its refusal to pull punches where the management of the Opera House is concerned, its conclusions, es-

pecially the status quo with modifications, are the only finding he could sensibly have come up with, if only because all the alternatives would have been even worse.

Even though the conclusion that the Royal Opera and the Royal Ballet should be allowed to occupy the refurbished Royal Opera House when it reopens next year begs the serious question of whether after years of arrogant mismanagement and a bungled closure plan they actually deserve to occupy such a state-of-the-art theatre, the confirmation of the integrity of the two main London opera companies is reassuring.

It is a boost especially to ENO, which at one time looked like becoming the sacrificial victim in some grand scheme to discipline its more

glamorous sibling up the road, though the idea that the Coliseum should host more weeks of ballet every year while ENO takes itself off to the rebuilt Sadler's Wells theatre needs careful examination.

If there is bad news for anyone it is for Sadler's Wells, which reopens in the autumn. The idea that the Royal Opera and ENO should regularly present productions there, slotted in between the theatre's main commitment to visiting dance troupes, seems to deny it the chance to shape its own artistic destiny.

Even though Sir Richard is rightly critical of the shambolic way to which the Royal Opera House has been run, he takes too much on trust. In rejecting the privatisation option of floating the ROH as a

public company, partly because the financial power of the main shareholders might give them the chance to influence company and artistic policy, he overlooks that precisely the same thing happens in the present set-up, with the biggest private sponsors of the redevelopment regularly calling the shots.

And he surely underestimates the amount of arrogance and snobbery at the ROH. His hope that access will be more open, and that elitist fills will be dissolved into some kind of egalitarian utopia just because of the new beginning in sleek hi-tech premises, seems like whistling in the wind, especially considering what Sir Richard describes as the "well-sired history of inadequacy of the successive boards of the ROH".

It is going to take more than smart new furnishings to dispel all that — a brand new management structure to go with the brand new house, in fact: a clear-out from top to bottom, supervised by the secretary of state, and reassembled in consultation with a newly appointed and untainted artistic administrator. Only a radical shake-up like that will restore any faith in the ability of the ROH to conduct its own affairs. Chris Smith may not be able to deliver the extra funding that is one of the main premises of Sir Richard's findings, but he could do a lot for the public image of opera by clearing up the mess, and it wouldn't cost him a penny.

Andrew Clements is the Guardian's music critic

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Diana museum opens



A museum devoted to the life of Diana, Princess of Wales, opens today, on what would have been her 37th birthday, at Althorp, the estate of her brother, Earl Spencer, where she is buried. The museum, near Northampton, which includes pictures, videos and dresses, will open for two months each summer, and 2,500 are expected to visit this year

Suicide fear over asylum 4th 'wife' backs bigamist

Nigerian cleared of rioting tries to hang himself in detention centre

Nick Hopkins

ONE of the asylum seekers cleared of rioting at the Campfield detention centre tried to commit suicide yesterday, provoking renewed concern over the treatment of detainees. Enashoro Esemuze, aged 25, was found hanging from a strip of blanket in the hospital unit of Rochester prison, Kent, at 6.05am. He was cut down before serious harm had been done.

His lawyer, Louise Christian, demanded to know why staff had not kept a closer eye on Mr Esemuze, who is severely depressed and was on a 24-hour suicide watch.

The visits are supposed to ease the fears of detainees about returning to the country, but have reportedly increased paranoia about what might happen if they are deported.

A Home Office spokesman said prison staff had acted swiftly when they realised Mr Esemuze was trying to kill himself, and he had sustained no serious injury.

He said detainees would not be forced to see the Nigerian diplomats. "It is up to them. There is no compulsion."

Mr Esemuze was one of eight West African asylum seekers accused of rioting at the Group 4-run Campfield House detention centre, near Oxford.

Their trial collapsed when the Crown Prosecution Service conceded that members of the prison staff who had given evidence had lied.

Serial husband misunderstood divorce procedures, court hears

Luke Harding

ROBIN Brown was not a man who could not commit. In 1978 he married Deirdre. Over the next 20 years he successively went to the altar with Pauline, Diane, and Marcia. Each Mrs Brown was convinced her title was unique.

Yesterday Gloucester magistrates court heard that Brown, aged 44, failed to tell his three last brides that he was married. The court was told Brown informed them he was a bachelor, when legally he was still conjoined to Deirdre.

Yesterday however he was allowed to escape jail after admitting three charges of bigamy and three counts of making false statements. His fourth "wife" — who is sticking by her "husband" — supported him from the public gallery.

Geoff Nash, prosecuting, said Brown married his first wife, Deirdre Stafford, at Gloucester register office in November 1978, but the couple split up two years later after having a son. They obtained a decree nisi in 1981 but the divorce was never finalised with a decree absolute.

Mr Nash said Brown went on to marry Pauline Ashby bigamously, at Stroud register office in October 1986. The couple had two children before they were divorced in 1990. By then, Brown had already married his third wife, Diane Butler, again in Gloucester register office, in September 1989. When they split up Brown found consolation in the arms of Marcia Vowles, whom he married in June 1996.

Brown was arrested by police following inquiries by the various register offices involved.

Tim Burrows, defending, said Brown had genuinely believed his first marriage was over and that he was free to marry again. "Mr Brown did not have a full grasp of the divorce procedure. He is not a literate man and he relied on others," he explained.

Brown, of Bishopsworth, Bristol, was ordered to perform 200 hours of community service over the next 12 months and pay £34 costs.

Orange Order march threat

John Mullin
Ireland Correspondent

ORANGEMEN will attempt to disrupt the first meeting of Northern Ireland's new assembly today, and demand that Unionist members refuse to elect the first minister and his deputy until they are allowed to march on their traditional route at Drumcree.

They also vowed that they would march to Drumcree parish church as usual on Sunday, and refuse to take any route other than along the nationalist Garvaghy Road back into Portadown in Co Armagh. They vowed to mass at the police lines until they were allowed through — for a year if necessary.

Tony Blair is involved in negotiations to find a solution. He spoke with Orangemen on Tuesday, and discussed the issue yesterday with Bertie Ahern, Taoiseach.

An approach may also be made to John Hume, leader of the SDLP, to ask him to try to persuade local residents to allow a token march.

Denis Watson, County Grand Master of Armagh, elected as an Independent Unionist to the new assembly, vowed to flout the Parades Commission decision to reroute the march. The commission also declared that any gathering would be illegal.

Mr Watson said: "It is the intention of the Portadown district to go to its place of worship on Sunday and return along its traditional route, should that be next Sunday or Sunday week."

Portadown district is prepared to stay at Drumcree for 365 days if necessary for the parade to have the right to walk and return along the Garvaghy Road.

likely to be Lord Alderdice, of the Alliance Party, Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble, and John Hume, SDLP leader.

But Ian Paisley, leader of the Democratic Unionist Party, made it clear he wanted the issue to take precedence. He hinted that the 28 Unionists opposed to the Good Friday agreement would walk out if they failed to have the ban debated.

There are about 30 Orangemen in the assembly. At least 18 are in Mr Trimble's party, and if a handful found their loyalties to the Orange Order stronger than to their party leader, the assembly could be facing a disastrous start.

Mr Trimble met with Ronnie Fennagan, RUC chief constable, for yesterday, then went to a summit with Mo Mowlam, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to ask her to overturn the Parades Commission decision. She appealed for calm.

The Orange Order believes it has moved as far as it can on the Drumcree issue, flash point for violence for each of the last three years. More than 1,000 troops have been flown in to deal with any trouble this weekend, but clashes appear inevitable.

However, Orangemen promised to listen to suggestions from the nationalist community, while refusing to speak to residents' representative, Brendan MacClonnail, because of his conviction 18 years ago for terrorist offences. They would consider mediation, but not through the Parades Commission, which they regard as anti-Orange.

Robert Sauter, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Ireland, with 80,000 members, blamed republicans for a policy of "sectarian ghettoisation". He said: "Small-minded groups within local communities should not be permitted to control who travels along the roads. Such segregation did not work in South Africa, nor in the southern states of America. Such cultural apartheid cannot be allowed to work in Northern Ireland."

Man 'murdered in Turkey for his British passport'

Duncan Campbell
Crime Correspondent

TWO days after arriving in Istanbul for an Easter holiday, Edgar Fernandes, a London librarian, was murdered and his passport and credit cards stolen.

Today his family and friends will seek to draw attention to what they suggest is the growing crime of violent "identity-theft" in Turkey and will also press the British government to ensure that Mr Fernandes's killer is brought to justice.

A total of 174 Britons have been reported missing in Turkey in the last 10 years. While most have resurfaced, the Fernandes family say that it is clear that Britons of Asian origin are targets for passport theft, particularly if they are male and have Muslim names. Stolen EU passports fetch up to \$5,000 on the black market.

Mr Fernandes, 37, was born in Kenya, lived in Goa and moved to Leicester with his parents and five brothers and sisters in the mid-1970s. He had been a librarian in Hackney for the past 12 years.

For a last-minute holiday, he had booked a room in an Istanbul hotel and arrived there on April 8. He was seen later that night having a beer with other guests, including an Egyptian who, as an English-speaker, had taken his booking over the phone. The following afternoon he left the hotel and disappeared.

Members of his family and friends flew to Istanbul to investigate. They discovered that his credit card had been used frequently in stores in Istanbul by two Moroccan men and his passport had been used to cross into Bulgaria and then Greece.

On May 7, his cousin, Tony Fernandes, was asked by Istanbul police to identify photographs of a body that had been found on April 10 in the Sea of Marmara not far from the hotel. It was Edgar Fernandes, who had received a heavy blow to the back of the head.

The credit card had meanwhile been used in Malta.



Edgar Fernandes... a victim of the growing crime of violent 'identity-theft' in Turkey

Alerted by the family, Interpol and the Maltese police monitored its use, finally arresting the Egyptian hotel guest as he attempted to leave the country. He has now allegedly confessed to killing Mr Fernandes but is claiming he acted in self-defence. He is being held in Malta while the authorities there await extradition proceedings from Turkey.

In May, a second Briton of Asian origin, Gulzar Qureshi, 68, a retired London GP, was holidaying in Turkey when he was attacked in Istanbul.

He, too, was struck a violent blow on the back of the head. His son also went to Istanbul to search for him and found him by chance in a hospital unable to remember what had happened. He is now back in Britain suffering from brain damage and partial paralysis. Again it appears that passport theft was the motive.

The Fernandes family are unhappy at what they see as the failure of the British authorities to put pressure on Turkey to investigate the crime and worried that the killer may not stand trial because of lack of will on the part of the Turkish authorities.

Tony Fernandes said yesterday that British inactivity over his cousin's disappearance and murder compared unfavourably with the efforts of the Government on behalf of the British nurses in Saudi Arabia or British hostages in Kashmir and Cambodia.

The Foreign Office said they sympathised with the Fernandes family and that the Turkish authorities were aware of the Government's interest in the case.



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Luke Knight (left), Neil Acourt (obscured), David Norris, Jamie Acourt (throwing punch), and Gary Dobson (back) react as they are pelted with eggs
PHOTOGRAPH: PAUL HACKETT



Father 'nobbled juror' in another trial

Suspect denies knowing of bribe to persuade attempted murder victim to change his evidence

David Pallister

THE father of one of the five suspects in the murder of Stephen Lawrence attempted to influence the trial of his son on the attempted murder of another youth by witness bribing and jury nobbling, the inquiry was told yesterday.

But David Norris repeatedly denied that he knew about the activities of his father, Clifford, who is now serving eight years in prison for drugs smuggling and possession of guns.

Norris, the third of the sus-

pects to be questioned, admitted he had been arrested for the stabbing of Stacey Benefield in May 1993, a few days after his arrest for Stephen's murder. He was acquitted at the Old Bailey.

Throughout the three-month inquiry Michael Mansfield QC, for the Lawrence family, has been investigating the role of Clifford Norris who, he has suggested, may have influenced the investigation because of his corrupt relationship with the police.

It was put to Norris that his father had given Benefield £2,000 before the trial to change his evidence, with a further £5,000 promised.

"Your father met Benefield, didn't he," Mr Mansfield asked.

"I don't know that," Norris replied.

"When did you discover that?"

"In the papers," Norris replied.

"He told Benefield he didn't have to worry about the police. Do you know any of this?"

"No," Norris replied.

Mr Mansfield said the jury foreman had approached Norris with his court escorts.

"I can't remember that," Norris replied.

"It's the first I've heard of it," he said.

He was reminded that the approach had become an issue at the trial. "It allegedly happened," he said.

"What were you told what the foreman said?"

"I can't remember that," he said.

"He told you you were going to get acquitted, didn't he?"

"Can't remember."

During the trial, Mr Mansfield said the foreman was "constantly looking at you, winking at you, smiling at you."

Mr Mansfield revealed that the foreman was at the time on bail for dishonestly banding £23,000 and was later convicted, and that after the acquittal he offered Norris a job.

"How much of this matter did you know?" he asked.

"Very little. I was told someone allegedly approached the jury."

In the middle of his evidence Mr Mansfield interrupted his questioning and urged Norris's mother, Teresa, sitting directly opposite him, not to influence his answers.

At one stage she could be seen shaking or nodding her head.

Mr Mansfield said: "I would be grateful if there were no indications from the gallery

as to what he might say. I'm very concerned, having just witnessed it."

Mr Mansfield repeatedly asked Norris about meetings with his father, but to most questions Norris said he could not remember.

Mr Mansfield said: "Are you going to persist in saying 'I don't remember where I was' whatever questions are put to you?"

Norris replied: "If I could remember I would say, but I can't remember I can't remember."

Both Luke Knight and Gary Dobson, who gave evidence next, insisted the extreme racist language used by them and captured on a police surveillance video was due to "immaturity".

In the video, Knight, aged 21, praises Enoch Powell for warning that black immigrants would "ruin the gaff".

Knight said: "I just spoke out in anger I suppose for what has happened to me."

Knight also says on the video, made in 1994, that a "measroom" was guaranteed to win the Sports Personality of the Year competition.

Asked by Edmund Lawson QC, counsel for the inquiry, why he made those comments: "I think it is a bad thing to say. It was just silliness. It didn't mean anything."

When Knight insisted that he no longer used such racist language and had grown up, he was asked about the provocative behaviour of him and Jamie Acourt as they left the inquiry the previous day.

Mr Mansfield said the incident was caught on film, adding: "You shouted out as you left the premises 'black bastards didn't you'?"

Knight replied simply: "No, I never," to a chorus of "lies" from the public gallery.

Knight was also asked about images from the video showing one of the suspects brandishing a large knife and explaining to the others how to use it effectively.

Knight insisted the youths had only been "mucking about" out of boredom.

Mr Mansfield asked: "When does it stop being mucking about?"

Knight: "When you hurt someone."

Gary Dobson, who regularly used the word 'nigger' on the video, said: "It was all mindless banter. I am not a racist."

Asked about a knife which he said he might have put under the mattress of his girlfriend's bed, he claimed he had bought it to cut her back garden.

He agreed that he had gone to the house of Jamie and Neil

Acourt, the two other suspects, on the night of the murder but he could not remember who was there or what anyone was doing.

Dobson denied ever having a knife in public or threatening anyone.

Mr Mansfield: "A Stanley knife, for example?"

Dobson replied to jeers from the public gallery: "Go on."

Mr Mansfield then read a passage from the video where Dobson told the story of "threatening to cut a black man at work with his Stanley knife."

"I was having a good laugh at him. It's a joke. We were young and stupid and had a silly sense of humour."

Mr Mansfield put it again: "You, too, like the others like carrying the knife and playing with it?"

"I suppose so," he replied.

Face to face at last after five-year wait

David Pallister on how the family felt on hearing 'can't remember' from suspects

HAS the five years of waiting been worth-while for Neville and Doreen Lawrence?

After the five suspects ignominiously fled the inquiry yesterday under police protection, a hall of missiles and an avalanche of abuse, Mr Lawrence was understandably bitter.

"Yet again I have had to sit here and listen to people peddle lies, and there was nothing I could do," he said.

"Then I had to sit here and watch these people walk away..."

The Lawrences and their family campaigners had, of course, desperately wanted the five young men finally to answer questions in public. It was something they had always managed to evade. Charges against two

were dropped at committal, and a private prosecution against the other three collapsed. And when they all had to appear at the inquest they claimed privilege in reply to every question.

The only real inkling the Lawrences had about the young men — teenagers at the time of the murder — was in the secret police surveillance video showing them to be violent and racist thugs.

There was little expectation in the Lawrence camp that any new evidence would emerge from the questioning of the five, and they were right. "Can't remember," became a mantra chanted by the five, although each one handled the questions differently. Jamie Acourt was monosyl-

labic and insolent; his brother Neil was cocksure; David Norris was surly; Luke Knight was evasive; and Gary Dobson was aggressive in manner.

Norris, in particular, displayed an extraordinary ignorance of the activities of his father, Clifford — perhaps because Clifford Norris has been writ large in the inquiry as a notorious criminal who may have tried to persuade the police to protect his son and his friends.

It is an allegation that has not been proved but the son's answers did little to dispel that suspicion.

But at least the Lawrence family have a measure of the five. Their protestations about not being racist — despite disgusting language and imagery they used in the video — were entirely unconvincing. So too were disclaimers of their fondness for carrying knives and other weapons. The inquiry has heard of claw hammers on a strap, Gurkha knives, machetes, Stanley knives, Swiss army knives, a truncheon, a life-like revolver, and baseball bats.

At times Sir William Macpherson had to remind one or other of the five that they could be prosecuted for perjury — and, many observers believe, successfully.

'We did not kill him'

Suspects give their side in statement

This is the text of a statement released yesterday by the five suspects in the Lawrence case.

"IN 1993 we were all arrested for the murder of Steven [sic] Lawrence, which we all vehemently deny."

"We do sympathise with Mr and Mrs Lawrence and the tragic loss of their son. We understand their quest to discover what happened to their son and why no one has been convicted of his murder."

"We have no knowledge of this murder. We were not involved. We did not kill Steven [sic] Lawrence. It has been said that we have built a wall of silence around ourselves."

"The truth is, that we have not publicly sought to argue this case through the media."

"Others have used the

media — this case has been twisted and sensationalised. We have been powerless to have our side put across or our account given, without fear of our words being manipulated or distorted for the media's sensationalism."

"We have had to defend ourselves against the prosecution by the state, an investigation which continued for almost two years, including police surveillance [sic] and bugging our homes and subsequent private prosecution."

"Throughout all these proceedings there has never been a case against us which stands up to any form of scrutiny."

"The case was thrown out by a magistrate against two of us. At the Old Bailey, the family's private prosecution had to accept there was no case — they offered no evidence and three of us were found not guilty."

"Five years have now past [sic] and we are still being forced to prove our innocence, despite being acquitted. We continue to be portrayed as guilty men."

"Our lives have been changed forever — we will fight these accusations until we are satisfied that our names have been cleared. It is time for us to say 'enough is enough' — we are innocent."

"We think it is time the public heard this from ourselves."

More scuffles as suspects deny killing teenager

Rory Carroll reports on the frustration and anger of black protesters at inquiry

HATRED, anger and frustration seeped from the Stephen Lawrence inquiry yesterday on to the streets of south London as black protesters fought police protecting the five suspects.

A middle-aged school teacher, wearing an ankle-length floral skirt, spoke softly: "Send the pigs out. We'll take a bit, chop chop, and feed them to the dogs. We'll kick their heads, stamp their faces, so they know what it's like to die in the road."

Ten minutes later she nearly had her wish as the men sprinted from the Elephant and Castle shopping centre. A chanting crowd of 400 hurled missiles and heaved against the police cordon.

Hands and legs flayed against the five as they struggled to enter a police van. They lashed back and punched a black girl in the face. Eggs, apples, bottles, umbrellas and threats bounced off the van as it sped away. "We'll find you, we'll get you pigs, fascist scum."

The venom dated to April 1993, when Stephen Lawrence, a promising black A-level student, was stabbed at a bus stop in Eltham, south London. Yesterday's testimony, said Kenny Wanjohi, 30, pushed people to breaking point.

"People are frustrated. They know what's going on in the inquiry and have to protest, but it should be peaceful."

Earlier, David Norris, 21,

had resumed giving evidence to the packed inquiry. Every word was relayed via video link to a disused basement store, watched by a seething but orderly crowd.

Laughter greeted his mantra: "don't remember."

Another suspect, Luke Knight, 21, was awarded first prize for synchronised testimony: "don't remember."

Pressed on racist comments recorded on a police surveillance video, he echoed Norris. "Us racist? No, immature, the video was four years ago."

Garry Dobson, 23, completed the triptych. "I was young, I was frightened. I'm not a racist."

The public gallery remained silent, as requested by the Lawrence family, until Dobson left the stand, trailing hisses.

Confusion erupted protesters outside. The Lawrence family wanted no violence, but this could be the suspects' last day of reckoning. "We can't let them just walk out, smile and wave goodbye," cried a teenage girl.

Agitators appealed to pedestrians and shoppers: "Come on black people, organise. Use your mobile phones, call your friends, tell them what's happening."

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Linda Tripp yesterday before her appearance in front of the grand jury investigating the Lewinsky affair. PHOTOGRAPH BY JOHN GALLS

New-look Tripp tells jury about taping Lewinsky

Martin Kettle in Washington

LINDA Tripp, the Pentagon employee who secretly taped more than 20 hours of telephone conversations with the former White House intern Monica Lewinsky, began giving evidence to a Washington grand jury yesterday.

Ms Tripp's appearance in court marked a new, higher profile stage in the investigation by the independent counsel, Kenneth Starr, into allegations that Ms Lewinsky and President Bill Clinton had a sexual relationship. It is also alleged that Mr Clinton and his friend Vernon Jordan may have encouraged Ms Lewinsky to lie under oath.

Ms Tripp is expected to give evidence over several days. Her testimony, which takes place in secret, will centre on her reasons for making the tapes and on the extent to which she orchestrated Ms Lewinsky's testimony.

"The tapes have been heard by members of the grand jury but have only been selectively leaked to the media. The published excerpts do not support the assertion that they contain confessions of a sexual

relationship which both Mr Clinton and Ms Lewinsky have denied on oath.

Ms Tripp, aged 48, arrived at the federal courthouse, a short distance from the White House, accompanied by three lawyers and her two adult children.

In a clear effort to improve her public image — her appearance has been the butt of jokes by television chat-show hosts and her actions have been attacked by off-the-

'I did not cultivate Monica Lewinsky, she cultivated me. Monica is a very worldly person. She educated me'

record White House briefers — Ms Tripp paraded a new, softer image. She wore a dark trouser suit, carried a Chanel handbag and had her hair neatly pulled back.

Her chief lawyer, Anthony Zaccagnini, said Ms Tripp was not nervous about giving evidence. "Not at all. She's doing good. She's real strong," he said.

In a further effort to rescue her standing among an American public of which, polls show, only one in 10 views

her sympathetically, Ms Tripp yesterday gave her first interview since the Lewinsky story broke in January. She told the Washington Post that she was "so anxious to go before the grand jury and tell the truth".

She rejected criticism that she had won Ms Lewinsky's trust in a cynical effort to exploit her confidences for political and personal gain. "I did not cultivate Monica; she cultivated me," Ms Tripp said.

"Monica is a very worldly person. She educated me," Ms Tripp also described Ms Lewinsky as "savvy" and "a very likeable person".

Ms Lewinsky first told her that she was having an affair with Mr Clinton in September 1996, she claimed, five months after the former intern was transferred to a job at the Pentagon.

"I have the truth on my side," Ms Tripp told the Washington Post. "It is what has sustained me. The truth

as I know it will be corroborated."

In addition to answering questions about the tapes, Ms Tripp is expected to give evidence about her contacts with Mr Starr, who advised her to tape a face-to-face conversation with Ms Lewinsky in the Ritz-Carlton Hotel near the Pentagon on January 14, and with lawyers for Paula Jones, whom she briefed on her conversations on the evening before Mr Clinton gave his deposition in the Jones sexual harassment case on January 17.

She will also be asked about the origins of the so-called "talking points" memorandum which Ms Lewinsky gave her. The memorandum suggests ways that Ms Tripp might give evidence favourable to Mr Clinton about his alleged sexual advances to Kathleen Willey.

Ms Tripp's appearance before the grand jury is widely seen in Washington as, in part, an attempt by Mr Starr to increase the pressure on Ms Lewinsky to make a deal with prosecutors. In spite of repeated rumours, Ms Lewinsky has not agreed to change her story about her relationship with Mr Clinton in return for pleading guilty to a perjury charge.

Abiola's freedom may rest on dropping claim to presidency

Alex Duval Smith
Africa correspondent

NIGERIA's new military leaders will release the country's most prominent political prisoner, Moshood Abiola, if he drops his claim to the presidency, foreign diplomats said in Lagos yesterday.

The United Nations secretary-general, Kofi Annan, who is due to see Mr Abiola during an unscheduled visit to Nigeria, has urged him to agree to the condition.

The death of the former leader General Sani Abacha and his replacement by General Abdulsalam Abubakar has been followed by gestures of reform, including the release of 30 political detainees.

But diplomats in Nigeria remain cautious about the scheduled for Mr Abiola's release.

"We are definitely talking here about the terms for his release. But Nigeria's military must not be seen to lose face, or to have succumbed to foreign pressure. Everyone negotiating with them is

acutely aware of that fact," said one.

Under the transition programme laid out by Abacha, which Gen Abubakar has promised to abide by, Nigeria should switch to civilian rule by October. But Abacha had laid the groundwork for his re-election as president on August 30.

The election date has not been confirmed by the new military ruler and it is not clear whether Mr Abiola, if released, would be allowed to stand.

Indeed, diplomats speculated yesterday that a condition for the release of the 60-year-old businessman — who was jailed after proclaiming himself the winner of the 1993 presidential election — could be that he abandons politics.

That would be unacceptable to his supporters, concentrated in south-western Nigeria, who want him to head a South African-style transitional government of national unity. Other opposition groups want his release but are less keen to have him as leader.

Gen Abubakar, who met Mr Annan yesterday, must per-

form a balancing act as he heads international pressure while trying not to upset the privileged military who have ruled Nigeria for all but 10 years since its independence from Britain in 1960.

The international community — which seems to be drifting away from supporting Mr Abiola's claim to the presidency — can offer several incentives to the military leadership.

One is to lift the partial sanctions — including an arms embargo — imposed after Abacha defied an international outcry and ordered the execution of the writer Ken Saro-Wiwa and eight other activists from the Ogoni tribe.

The activists had demanded a greater share of the oil wealth in their southern region and called for better measures to protect the environment.

The Commonwealth could also allow Nigeria — suspended after the executions — back into the fold. Its secretary-general, Emeka Anyaoku, is in Nigeria and was due to meet Gen Abubakar yesterday.

Mr Annan, who is Ghana-

ian, and Mr Anyaoku, who was born in Nigeria, are among a range of foreign diplomats and politicians who have been invited to the administrative capital, Abuja, to meet Gen Abubakar.

The Foreign Office junior minister Tony Lloyd is in the country as the representative of the European Union. Last Friday he gave a strong indication of the current view of the international community when he said Mr Abiola did not necessarily still have a valid mandate for the presidency.

Even though Nigeria's 120 million ordinary people — suffering fuel shortages and the consequences of an ongoing decline in the currency, the naira — are disillusioned with politics, Gen Abubakar gave them cause for hope last week.

He ordered that fuel transactions be taken out of the hands of the state-run monopoly, which notoriously lined the pockets of Gen Abacha and his coterie, and handed to the foreign multinationals. The first cargo of refined oil arrived in Lagos aboard a Shell ship yesterday.

Martin Woolcott in Sydney

AUSTRALIA'S conservative government, already struggling to deal with the inroads being made into its support by the One Nation Party, is being torn apart by the issue of Aboriginal rights.

Its dilemma was underlined yesterday by a poll which showed the rightwing One Nation at its most popular and the opposition Labour Party in a position to win an early general election.

The only consolation for a harried government yesterday was the publication of damaging allegations about One Nation's internal affairs. Barbara Hazelton, the private secretary to the party leader, Pauline Hanson, said that David Oldfield, her principal adviser, was exercising a malign influence on both Ms Hanson and the party.

"People are being hoodwinked if they think they are voting for Pauline Hanson when she has no control over it at all," Ms Hazelton said. She accused Mr Oldfield of holding the party's supporters in contempt — a damning charge for an organisation which makes a virtue of its respect for ordinary people.

The vetting of potential One Nation candidates was so slack, Ms Hazelton said, that a single claim has been taken to a successful conclusion, but much of white rural

made when Jesus appeared to him in 1989 was endorsed as a federal candidate and only dropped weeks later.

Ms Hanson, in a statement, rejected Ms Hazelton's charges, and affirmed her confidence in Mr Oldfield.

One Nation has its problems but the governing parties may be too distracted to take advantage.

One Nation has its problems but the governing parties may be too distracted to take advantage

A high court decision in 1992 established that Aboriginal groups could lawfully put forward claims on all but freehold land, which means much of Australia.

Legislation and further legal decisions followed. The Howard government, after coming to office in 1996, proposed to limit the scope of such claims by reducing the role of negotiation and establishing a cut-off point after which, in particular instances, further claims would not be entertained.

Not a single claim has been taken to a successful conclusion, but much of white rural

Australia is in a state of high anxiety about what Aboriginal people might be able to take from them.

Mr Howard found himself stymied by the senate, where the coalition parties do not have a majority. A single independent senator, a Catholic liberal called Brian Harradine, gave the edge to those against the plan to limit Aboriginal rights.

The prime minister vowed to go for a "double dissolution" if the senate would not budge. A double dissolution is

elections. The voting system for the senate would favour One Nation, particularly if all the senate seats were being contested. Suddenly, the last thing Mr Howard wanted was to threaten a double dissolution, and since the Queensland result he has been in intense negotiations with Mr Harradine to work out some way for the native title amendments to go through.

A deal seemed close yesterday and was still being worked on last night. But the likely softening of the legislation has enraged some Liberals and most National Party politicians, who think it will lose them even more voters to One Nation. And Aboriginal leaders are likely to portray such a deal as a damaging blow to rights which have barely been exercised.

A poll in the Australian newspaper puts support for Labour at 45 per cent, the government 34 per cent and One Nation at a record 13 per cent.

Ms Hanson is making things potentially even worse for the conservatives by threatening to pass One Nation preference votes to Labour in key seats where the party has vowed it will bring down conservative ministers. But the Labour party is also concerned. Some assessments suggest the party might find itself headless after an election because One Nation could turn the leader, Kim Beazley, out of his seat in Western Australia.

Picking starts at holes in Cosby case

Christopher Reed
in Los Angeles

THE defence opens today in the case against the alleged murderer of Ennis Cosby, the son of the popular African American entertainer Bill Cosby, after the prosecution abruptly dropped three important witnesses on Friday.

Henry Hall will suggest that another man — one of the three who did not testify — killed Ennis Cosby, not the man on trial, the Ukrainian immigrant Mikhail Markhashev, aged 19, and that the gun he allegedly used is not the murder weapon.

The evidence against Mr Markhashev is slender and

some legal analysts believe that the case could end in another defeat for the troubled Los Angeles district attorney's office. It has a series of bungled prosecutions behind it, including the acquittal of O.J. Simpson on at his double murder trial three years ago.

Like the Simpson trial, the Cosby case has raised doubts about the reliability of forensic procedures. The strongest evidence against Mr Markhashev is DNA from a hair found in a dark knitted cap he allegedly wore on the night of the murder, discarded with a gun. But the hair was apparently only found six months after the January 1997 murder.

No witnesses have put Mr Markhashev at the place where Cosby, a 27-year-old PhD student, was killed with a single shot in the head as he changed a tyre late at night.

The main witness, Stephanie Crane, testified that a man in a knitted cap threat-

ened her in her car as she shone its lights to help Cosby change the tyre. The drawing made from her description resembles Mr Markhashev, but she was unable to identify him in a lineup.

The only witness to link Mr Markhashev to the crime, Christopher So, said the accused later told him he had "shot a nigger" and that he was "all over the news". But the jury was told that Mr So could earn \$100,000 from a newspaper if Mr Markhashev is convicted.

Mr So's friend Michael Chang, who is alleged to have helped Mr Markhashev look for the discarded gun, declined to give evidence on the grounds that he could face reprisals in prison.

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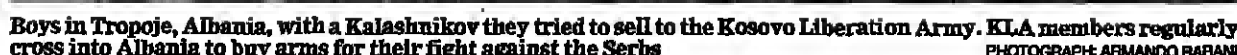
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Hostage-taking is increasing as ethnic Albanians push for regional independence, writes **Jonathan Steele** in Pristina

In an incident this week, three men brandishing Kalashnikov rifles and wearing KLA badges on their caps raced out of hiding in a ruined house to make a car approach on the main road from Pristina to Prizren in south-west Kosovo. It was not a normal Kosovo Liberation Army checkpoint and the men were not from the ethnic Albanian village. They inspected the driver's passport, saw he was a foreign journalist and waved him on. The car was on the road, Serb police at a hilltop checkpoint were unusually

with Serbian rule. The death toll was around two dozen.

Since March this year, when the Serb police started attacking Albanian villages in the Drenica region and later, with the help of the Yugoslav army, in western Kosovo, the KLA has concentrated on helping farmers defend their homes as well as training new volunteers.

The switch to kidnapping appears to have several motives. By seizing nine Serb

Serbs in early settlements may have been killed, setting about 20 houses on fire before they left. The shelling of Decani, in western Kosovo, may have taken 100 lives and left tens of thousands homeless.

Serb security forces announced yesterday that they had regained control of the Belascevac mine. The nearby village of Ade, which the KLA had occupied, was heavily shelled, setting homes on fire. There was no confirmation of how many Serbs or Albanians were killed.

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The suit claimed that publishing the photos would be "offensive and objectionable", and that a "reasonable person of ordinary sensibilities [would] not want to disclose in a nationally published magazine . . . his completely naked body." —AP.

That at least elicited a letter saying that Microsoft would not translate Windows 95, but it might translate Windows 98. Since then, nothing. Now Iceland is bringing in the heavy artillery: President Olafur Ragnar Grímsson himself is about to join the campaign. — *Los Angeles Times*.

preme court, claiming that some feminised forms for the civil service will be laughed at if they are taken at face

It's worth a double take.

هكذا من الاصل

Sir Michael Mann

Appealing qualities



An Inspector calls... Mann on his way to a hearing of the Vale of Belvoir Inquiry in 1979. PHOTO: DON MAPPES

SIR MICHAEL Mann, who has died aged 67, was a first-class lawyer and an excellent judge, who nevertheless failed to achieve his full potential. The former head of his chambers said Mann was the most brilliant pupil since Sir Patrick Devlin. And indeed such a glowing opinion seemed to be justified when, in 1988, Mann was appointed to the Court of Appeal. But illness led to his early retirement in 1990.

Mann was educated at Whitgift School and King's College, London. He was called to the Bar in 1963, and in 1965 joined the chambers of Eric Blair, which at that time was one of the few sets specialising in town and country planning and local government law. Mann's precise mind enabled him to master a mass of detailed evidence and present it succinctly and he soon built up a substantial practice. He also lectured in law at the London School of Economics until 1984.

In 1972 he took silk and established himself as a leader within his specialist field. In 1979 he was appointed to chair the public inquiry into the National Coal Board's controversial proposal for a major coal mine under the Vale of Belvoir. The scheme was fiercely opposed by many local people, including the Duke of Rutland and feelings ran high. Mann conducted the proceedings with courteous fairness and his report, a model of its kind, recommended approval for two of the mine shafts — but not for a third, in the Vale of Belvoir itself. This advice was accepted by the Government, but before work had fully

begun the declining demand for coal led to the project being abandoned. In 1982 Mann was appointed a judge of the Queen's Bench Division, and received the customary knighthood. The appointment was particularly appropriate because the present procedure for applications for judicial review was then in its infancy. Mann joined the group of judges who heard such cases and from then on judicial review, and the development of administrative law generally, became his major interest and expertise. As a judge Mann was court-

Mann's precise mind enabled him to master a mass of detailed evidence and present it succinctly. His judgments were meticulous and thorough

teous and fair, quick to grasp a point but ready to be persuaded. Above all, his judgments were meticulously prepared, precise and thorough. He gave judgment in several leading cases concerned with the powers of government departments. Queen's Bench judges, however, all have to do their share of other work, including trying serious crime and hearing criminal appeals. Mann did both conscientiously and competently.

In 1988 he was appointed a lord justice of appeal. It might have been expected that the Court of Appeal would be a forum in which his great abilities would be displayed to the full, and so for a time they were. Sadly, however, his promotion came around the time

of his divorce from his first wife to whom he had been married for over 30 years. This was a period of deep unhappiness for Mann, and for a while he seemed to lose his natural zest. He was fortunate to marry again, to Audrey Umpleby in 1989, and to re-establish his personal life with her help. In the Court of Appeal, Mann was involved in a variety of cases of difficulty and importance. Although he had not had a criminal practice at the Bar, in the Court of Appeal he was involved in some high-profile criminal appeals. In 1991 he was a member of

that computer records used by local councils to prove that people had failed to pay their poll tax were inadmissible as hearsay evidence if the official who had entered the information did not give evidence. In 1993, in a major divisional court judgment, showing his usual mastery of words, he wholly demolished Lord Rook's arguments that the Government had no legal right to ratify the Maastricht Treaty.

However, it had become apparent to those working close to him that Mann was finding some aspects of his work a great burden. The workload of the Court of Appeal in the 1990s includes not only cases of great weight and legal interest, but also many cases which, while important to the parties, raise no issue of general significance. Moreover, the constant increase in the number of appeals and applications for leave to appeal places great pressure on judges and court staff to deal with such matters as rapidly as possible.

This time constraint was anathema to Mann's meticulous temperament. His judgment in major cases was as sound as ever but the pressure of work affected his health. After a period of illness in 1994, he returned to the law courts but then decided that he could not continue. He retired early in 1995.

Michael Mann is survived by his wife and by two sons from his first marriage.

Sir Ian Gildewell
Michael Mann, barrister and judge, born December 9, 1930; died June 14, 1998

OBITUARIES 9

John Allen

Old Labour's new man

JOHN Allen, who has died of a heart attack aged 65, was an early example of a political breed which has become increasingly familiar around Whitehall and Westminster. In 1964, following Labour's narrow election victory, he was appointed a "special adviser" to Prime Minister Harold Wilson, with that much coveted thing, a desk inside Number 10.

He had been seconded in Downing Street after several years in the research department at Labour Party headquarters, where he worked under Peter Shore, who was later to move into Whitehall himself, first as parliamentary private secretary to Wilson and later as a cabinet minister.

Both Allen and Shore were, in essence, allies of Wilson. Wilson's death left the party leadership vacant. Both were also strong opponents of the European Common Market. Indeed, Allen conducted a massive and largely hostile analysis of the Treaty of Rome for Gaitskell. His report may well have advanced Gaitskell's eventual emergence as a passionate anti-market — a development which greatly distressed Roy Jenkins, Tony Crosland and most of the other Gaitskellites.

But Allen's first stint at Number 10 was not entirely happy, and certainly was not helpful to his subsequent career. As Wilson's biographer, Ben Pimlott, records, he had a brief affair with Wilson's political secretary, the formidable Marcia Williams (now Baroness Falkender). The relationship did not prosper, and in the finest Victorian tradition Allen was banished to Africa to purge and purify his soul.

After a year surveying conditions in Bechuanaland and Swaziland on HM's behalf, he returned to London to resume his job at Transport House rather than at Number 10. He was recalled to the Wilson "kitchen cabinet" for the 1970 election and is alleged to have had a direct share in the disastrous decision to choose June 6 as polling day, instead of waiting until October, as most people expected.

The current patch of political advisers to the Blair government have been famously described by Clare Short as "people who dwell in the dark". No such thing could ever have been said of Allen. Besides a formidable brain — he was a scholar of Christ's College, Cambridge, where he took a first in economics and history — he was also an ebullient, outgoing and extremely funny man. His lack of discretion was a pain to his

employers but a joy to humble-seekers after truth, like the present writer. In many ways, he was a journalist manque, and he enjoyed both the company of reporters and the drinks they bought him.

But he also loved politics, and made five unsuccessful efforts to secure a parliamentary seat. One of these failed bids was an attempt to succeed his father, Sydney Schofield Allen, who was Labour MP for Crewe for almost 30 years; John was pipped at the selection by a mere five votes.

An even more painful setback was his failure to secure the candidature in the Forest of Dean, near his home. Although he had been a highly-prized speechwriter for most of Labour's frontbenchers for nearly two decades, he never managed to deliver his own speeches very competently. He lost by two votes.

But his brainpower is attested by the fact that two of his closest friends were Nikk Kador and Tomus Balogh, the Hungarian economists — one from Cambridge, the other from Oxford — who were the Wilson government's principal economic advisers. It was Allen who originated the joke that Wilson's first Budget may have sounded complicated, but you should have heard it in the original Hungarian.

He eventually withdrew to the Wye valley, whence he



Allen... ebullient

emerged periodically to jog his old friends into action over one cause or another. He tried to gain admission to last year's Labour Party conference, where the 1997 election triumph was expected. He was turned away by people who did not know him or appreciate the role he had played in Labour's earlier election victories. It hurt him sorely.

He is survived by his former wife, Frances, and by a son, John, who is a barrister. They had no children.

Ian Affken
John Schofield Allen, political adviser, born May 26, 1932; died June 23, 1998

Sheila Patterson

A woman of colour

IN THE 1950s the social anthropologist Sheila Patterson, who has died aged 60, began studying the settlement of West Indians in Brixton, south London. The result was her best-known book, *Dark Strangers* (1969). The image of this committed, conservative lady, with her cut-glass accent, studying conditions in the inner city may have seemed incongruous, but it is shattered by social stereotypes she would have regarded it as a beneficial side-effect.

In 1959 she began working for the new Institute of Race Relations in London. Her study of the employment of immigrants in Croydon earned her a London University doctorate, after which she edited the Institute's newsletter, a factual chronicle of events that included an occasional commentary. It was later supported by a book-length record of the years 1961-67.

A radical critic, inspired by the spirit of 1968, wrote disparagingly of "the lords and ladies of race relations" in Britain. Patterson retorted that very few ladies were involved, but this failed to impress those of us who saw her as one of them.

After education at Roedean — of which she was proud — and a classics degree at Oxford, she had helped with the reception of Polish servicemen in wartime Britain and learned their language. Later, in South Africa she became friendly with Ellen Hellman, one of the founders of

the South African Institute of Race Relations and researched the history of the Cape Coloured people. *Colour and Culture in South Africa* and *A History of the Bantu*, *The Last Trek* followed. After an interval in Canada, Patterson returned to Britain and began work in Brixton.

Following her newsletter editorship and a break for research in Barbados and St Vincent, she was for 16 years editor of *New Community*, the quarterly journal of the Community Relations Commission (CRC), which was later succeeded by the

The key was her strict standards of accuracy

Commission for Racial Equality (CRE).

In the mid-1960s, E J B Rose, director of the survey that became *Colour and Citizenship*, had observed that there was a lack of academic interest in the issue of race. "There seemed," he observed, "to be no professional mileage in race relations in Britain." Within a decade much had changed, but many in the universities still saw the field as one of controversy rather than of intellectual interest. The 1970s were also a decade of ideological confrontation and both the CRC and the CRE were assailed by right-wing and left-wing critics. New Community set out to

bridge the gaps between academics, those working in the applied field, and policy-makers, by publishing a wide range of research findings in a journal-free style. As an editor, Patterson observed strict standards of accuracy in reporting, in the choice of appropriate names for groups and social processes, and in political impartiality.

She has left a mass of archive material but her main memorial will be her contribution to a firm intellectual foundation for the understanding of the processes set in motion by the settlement of immigrants from the third world.

She stopped using her maiden name of Catty after her first marriage to Bruce Patterson in South Africa, but was happiest with her third husband, Tadeusz Horito, living in Hove. Writing about the death of Ellen Hellman, Patterson wrote that she had been complimented for helping the South African Institute of Race Relations "steer a course between complacency and mad radicalism", not least by editing an annual reference book that had a reputation, even among the Institute's critics, for accuracy, honesty and objectivity.

What was said of her friend may be said of Sheila Patterson.

Michael Banton
Sheila Patterson, social anthropologist, born March 30, 1918; died June 21, 1998



Patterson... bridging the gap between academics, field-workers and policy-makers

A Country Diary

VAX D'ANNIVERS: The Chemin des Planetes is a walk that begins at the observatory high above St Luc, here in Switzerland, and wanders between sculptures which evoke the planets. Ragged clouds swoop down from 4,000-metre peaks and a pair of eagles cruise over the ridge. At 2,387 metres, the Hotel Weissborn, built by the English as a sanatorium for TB and asthma sufferers, is an appropriate place for a breather before striking out into the high alpine country of the silvery rubble, not long ago covered in snow, the gems of alpine flora make their tiny shouts into the void: houseleeks, saxifrage, rock jasmine, primulas. The track stumbles across rocky heaths of rhododendron and lingering alpine roses still in flower. On the decent towards Zinal, each wet flash, streamside and drier ridge holds a unique ecological assembly — masses of pale yellow alpine pasque-flower, dark purple pansy, black and scarlet vanilla-scented orchids and thousands of early, purple raindrops. In a moment of rain, a tiny meadowwort appears — it is supposed to give invisibility to its finder. **PAUL EVANS**

Jerry Capehart

Summertime with Eddie

JERRY CAPEHART, the co-author of *Summertime Blues*, one of rock 'n' roll's most enduring anthems, has died aged 68. He wrote the song and numerous others with Eddie Cochran, the American rock star who was killed in a car accident near Bristol in 1960.

Capehart and Cochran first met in 1955 in a music store in the Los Angeles suburb of Bell Gardens, a centre of migration in the 1930s for poor Oklahoma farmers, or Okies, escaping the dust bowls of the Midwest. Eddie was already a professional, performing country & western songs in a duo called the Cochran Brothers. But like many young white singers from a country-music background, he was drawn to the new sounds of rockabilly as personified by the emerging Elvis Presley.

In Capehart Cochran found a lyricist and a record producer who could help mould a teenage rock identity for him. The Los Angeles music business contained a myriad of small labels, publishing companies and recording studios

and, in 1956, the pair developed their partnership through numerous rough and ready recordings, which would be lovingly catalogued by Cochran enthusiasts in the years following his death.

Some of these records (such as *Heart of a Fool* and *Latch On*) featured Capehart's undistinguished singing accompanied by Cochran's already authoritative guitar playing. Capehart also recorded a comedy rock number, *I Hate Rabbits*, under the pseudonym Jerry Neal.

Much more promising were tracks such as *Skinny Jim* (an "answer record" to Little Richard's *Long Tall Sally*) where Cochran sang with the backing of double bass player Gaybo Smith and Capehart's "drumming" on a cardboard box. Some of these tracks were issued in 1956 by Capehart on his own and other small local labels.

Having realised that he was best suited to a supporting role in Cochran's career, Capehart next made the rounds of the larger LA record companies with an Eddie Cochran

demonstration disc as his calling card. At Liberty Records, Al Bennett and Si Waronker were persuaded that Eddie could become a teenage idol to rival Elvis Presley and Pat Boone. In 1957 Cochran achieved national recognition with his first Liberty single, *Sitting In The Balcony*, and his appearance in the film comedy *The Girl Can't Help It*, where he sang *Twisty Flight Rock*.

Up to this point Cochran's



Capehart... supporting role

success had been based on his dynamic performances rather than the quality of the Capehart-Cochran songs, although the light wit of the lyrics to *Twisty Flight Rock* heralded what was to come in 1958. In that year the pair produced their two finest compositions, which both reflected and transcended the frustration and exhilaration of the teenage American lifestyle.

With his caricature of the cynical politician who tells Eddie, "I'd like to help you, son, but you're too young to vote", *Summertime Blues* brings humour to the situation without devaluing the adolescent angst that provides the song's narrative energy. In contrast, *C'mon Everybody* was a more straightforward invocation to party. In the words of the British critic Nick Cohn, these songs were "perfect reflections of everything that rock ever meant".

The power and fascination of these two songs have been endorsed by later generations of musicians and advertising executives. *Summertime Blues* was recorded by the

British skiffle group, The Vipers, the American heavy rockers, Blue Cheer, and by the bopping elf Marc Bolan, although the most memorable version — apart from the original — is that recorded by The Who on the 1968 album *Live At Leeds*. The song was performed in the 1989 film *La Bamba* by Brian Setzer, who played the part of Cochran.

Although *C'mon Everybody* had the distinction of being mangled on record by the Sex Pistols, the song gained a new audience and provoked a minor Cochran revival when the original version was used in a commercial for Levi jeans in which actors portrayed Eddie and his songwriter fiancée Sharon Sheeley.

Jerry Capehart had previously helped to maintain the posthumous interest in Cochran's work by encouraging the re-release of his early collaborations with the singer. However, Capehart's own show business career never really recovered from Cochran's death. He continued in management for some years before leaving music to work as a marina surveyor. He died of brain cancer in Nashville after a short illness.

Dave Laing
Jerry Neil Capehart, songwriter, born 1929; died June 7, 1998

Birthdays

Dan Aykroyd, actor, 46; Claude Berr, film director, 65; Karen Black, actress, 56; Genevieve Buford, actress, 56; Leslie Caron, actress, 67; Wayne David, Labour MEP, 41; Olivia de Havilland, actress, 82; Trevor Eve, actor, 47; Faulkner, former BBC governor for Northern Ireland, BBC, 73; Sir Colin Figures, former chief ("C"), Secret Intelligence Service, 73; John Gielgud, composer, musical comedian, 87; Farley Fawcett, actor, 73; Deborah Harry, rock singer, actress, 53; Hans Werner Henck, composer, 72; Carl Lewis, athlete, 37; Jean Marsh, actress, 54; Prof Stephen Neidle, cancer researcher, 52; Sydney Pollack, film director, 64; Tom Robinson, songwriter, singer and pianist, 48; Anne Showstack Sassoon, professor of politics, Kingston University, 54; Garry Schofield, rugby league footballer and coach, 33; Twyla Tharp, dancer and choreographer, 57; Peter Walwyn, racing trainer, 65; Malcolm Wicks, Labour MP, 51.

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

IN A sidebar accompanying a report headed, *Foreign fashions claim their next victim*, page 23, June 26, we wrongly stated, "Laura Ashley is now closing the 150-store US chain". In fact, in North America, Laura Ashley has 123 stores, 82 of which are "large format" stores. Six of the latter will close. However, earlier this year Laura Ashley said it would spend £20 million of the £43.7 million raised through a cash subscription by MUI on a recovery programme in North America.

It is the policy of the *Guardian* to correct errors as soon as possible. Please quote date and page number. Readers may contact the office of the Readers' Editor by telephoning 0171 239 5559 between 11am and 5pm, Monday to Friday. Surface mail to Readers' Editor, The Guardian, 115 Farringdon Road, London EC1R 3ER. Fax: 0171 239 9897. E-mail: readers@guardian.co.uk

Death Notices

CAIROGROSS, Lady Mary, suddenly after a stroke on June 20th. Buried with Alice for 55 years, and loving mother of Frances, Philip, Sandy, David and Richard. Funeral service at Oxford Crematorium on Monday July 6th at 10.30am. Memorial service to be held at 11.30am. No flowers. Donations to Oxfam or The National Trust.

CRONCHON, Pamela (Pam), into Dorroth, peacefully at New Mile Burn after 5 years of fighting cancer. Greatly loved by her husband, Ian, and her family. Funeral service at Oxford Crematorium on Monday July 6th at 11.30am. Flowers by arrangement. No flowers. Donations to Oxfam or The National Trust.

MAVALL, M.J. (Mrs), beloved husband of Owen and father of Heather. Buried on 25th June 1998. No funeral or flowers.

OSBORNE, On June 27th 1998, Doctor Albert (Dr) Osborne, aged 84, Research Fellow in University of Bristol. Husband of Marilyn, father of Susan and Richard. Funeral service at Oxford Crematorium, Bristol on Friday July 3rd at 11.30am.

TYE, On 27th June 1998, peacefully, at the Frimley Hospital, North Allerton, Joan (nee Riddell) Tye, beloved wife of Fred Tye. Funeral service and Committal in St George's Church, Fossbridge, North York, at 1.00pm, Friday 3rd July.

Births

APPLETON-PROCKMAN, Kate Proudman and Paul Appleton announce the birth of Emma Rose Appleton, 15th June 1998 at 4.55pm, a sister for Alice.

BITE place your announcement telephone 0171 733 4447 or 0171 733 4707 between 9am and 3pm Mon-Fri.

Comment

Diary

Matthew Norman

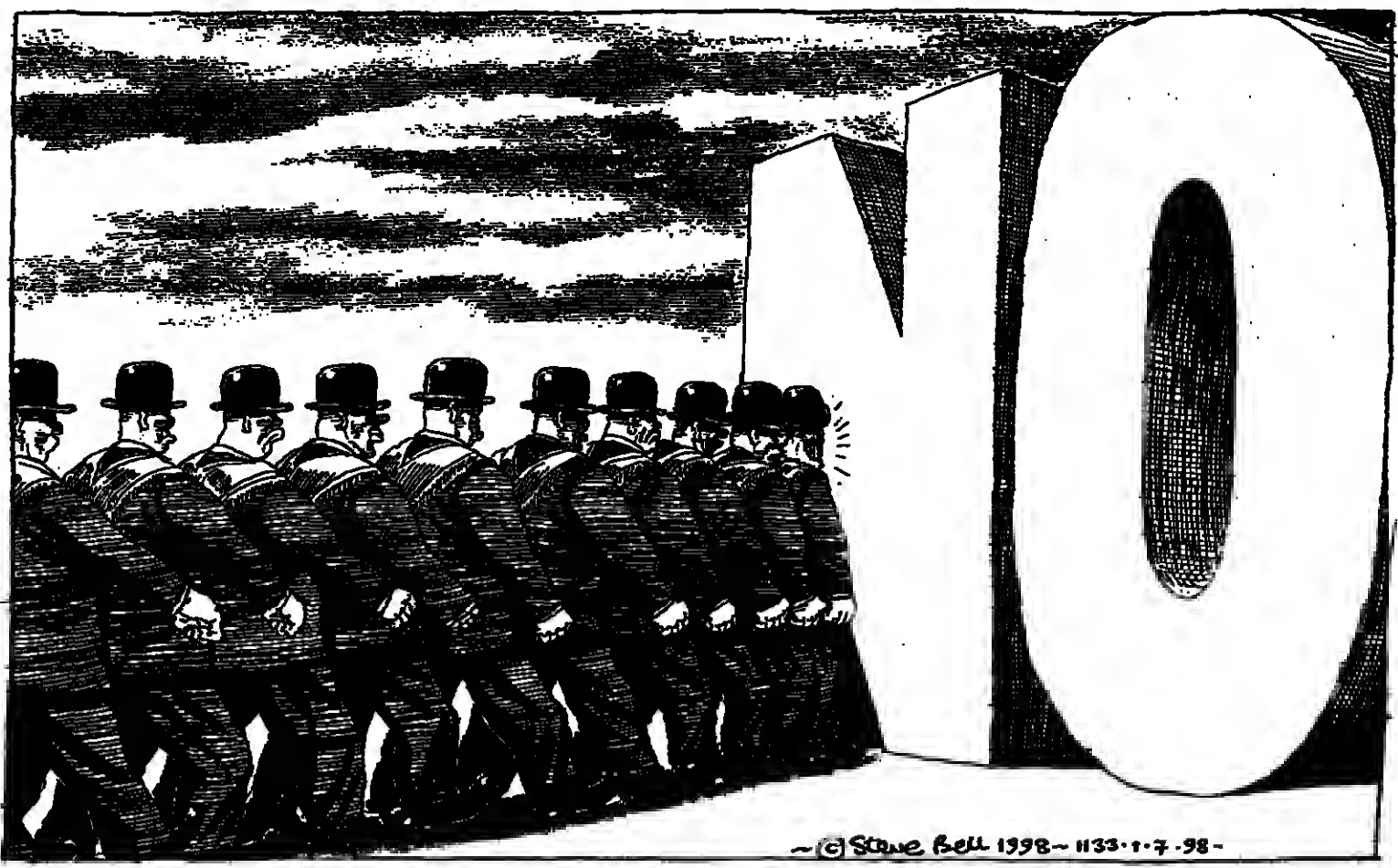
AND so, at last, the glorious day has dawned. Tonight, my friend Andrew Lloyd-Webber's latest musical entertainment, *Whistle Down The Wind*, opens at the Aldwych Theatre. We all have first night nerves, of course, but Andrew suffers more than most; you will hardly have forgotten the incident, on another first night, when his little Lordship had the gentlemen's lavatory at the Lyceum cleared to enable solo evacuation. Oddly, in a lengthy Sunday Times article about many aspects of the production ("I read like a pretentious, over-sensitive prat," wrote Andrew), he eschews mentioning the Aldwych stalls' urinals, about which he was heard to complain loudly during rehearsals, and which have since been done up. When my colleague Simon Rogers rings Nick Lloyd, his Chief Toilet Spokesman, to inquire whether any special arrangements had been made for tonight, he is met by insolence. "Yes," said Sir Nick, adopting a strong Suffolk brogue. "Get stuffed!" ... and before Simon could ask after our missing tickets, his receiver is replaced. Rudeness, yes, but we'll put it down to those first-night nerves, and say no more about it. Break a leg, everyone!

WHILE BBC radio news staff make the morose journey to the Television Centre, where they are being relocated as part of John Birt's "fully integrated news network", they are surprised by a memo. Senior TV executives — controllers and chaps like that, who are known as the "broadcast directorate" — will be making the move to the new offices... but in the opposite direction. No doubt they will find Broadcasting House a far more convenient location for the Groucho Club than White City. There really is nothing like leading from the front, is there? Hats off, Birt.

FROM Lyon, Charlie Whelan breaks off his journey to last night's game to call regarding the item here yesterday: Charlie was spotted on the night of England's defeat by Romania, snoozing on a sofa of a Toulouse hotel, snoring gently with his mouth open in the Venus Flytrap position. "I just rang to tell you," he says, "why I was asleep. We couldn't get a taxi until 2am in the morning." What, so you went to the wrong hotel? "No, our hotel was 30 miles out in the town so we had to... Oh look, there's an Argie over there." And with that he says farewell.

MEANWHILE, when Charlie can find a moment away from the World Cup, he will have to turn his mind to another currency crisis. A few months ago, when the pound was deemed too strong, it was reported that George Soros was planning to sell \$5 billion to bring the pound down. It is the power of the Hungarian's reputation that the pound took a timely dive. Whether Mr Soros ever actually sold so much as a liver is doubtful. But the timing of those reports, the cynic wondered if the Treasury and Mr Soros had pulled a fast one. Certainly, it is thought that Mr Soros popped into Number 11 for a quick drink. Perhaps now, with the pound almost back to its level before the last Soros whisper hit the newspapers, it's time for Charlie to get the Bulls Blood out again.

IN an audacious bid to acquire a glass of self-irony, New Labour's finest has enjoyed an outing to Politics bookshop in Westminster, for the opening of an exhibition of work by the cartoonist Martin Rowson. Mandy Mandelson graciously consented to open it (and was thanked by Martin for single-handedly saving the exhibition from being cancelled), while his erstwhile office boy Dolly Draper tried to buy a Rowson original in which he (Dolly) is pictured calling Mr Tony Blair a "jug-eared c***". Alas, the drawing had already been sold, and Dolly contented himself with another cartoon featuring him in a swearing contest with Noel Gallagher.



Forget Kilroy and all the other TV junk. Tune in to the magnificent Seven

Jonathan Freedland



LONG before Vanessa, Kilroy and Esther, years before Jerry and Oprah, there were the 14 children of Granada. They spoke of their innermost emotions, their heartbreaks and fears while we sat gripped and opening our eyes to the world as we had heard of professional TV. They were the children of Seven Up, the first in a remarkable series of documentaries which stands as one of the crowning glories of British television. It's a model of how to do it, and the casting Standards Commission might have cited yesterday, as they condemned the wilder shores of the "documentary" genre. For Seven Up and its five successors — the latest of which will air this month — are a lesson in what television can achieve when it turns an empathetic eye and a well-tuned ear on real people living real lives.

It began as a black-and-white World in Action special in 1964, taking more than a dozen seven-year-old kids as snapshots of Britain: posh boys in private schools, poor kids in rundown neighbourhoods, a lad in the Yorkshire Dales, a couple from suburban Liverpool, two more from...

The concept was class, with Seven Up planned by the left-wing populists of World in Action as a hard-hitting polemic. They wanted to show that class divisions ran so deep in Britain, a person's fate was sealed by the mere fact of their birth. If they grew up rich, they would be rich for ever. If they grew up poor, that's the way they'd stay. The programme's premise was the like a man, "Give me the child until he is seven and I will show you the man."

Sure enough, the seven-year-olds spoke as if their lives had been pre-programmed. "I'm going to work in Woolworth's," said little Lynn, one of three girls from Poplar in east London. Meanwhile John, the plummy-accented mini-toddler from Kensington had rather different plans. "When I leave this school I'm going to Colet Court and then I will be going to Westminster Boarding School. I'll pass the exam. And then we think I'm going to Cambridge and Trinity Hall."

But the film-makers did not stop there. Instead they revisited those "kids" every seven years, updating their stories. We watched as Nick, the boy who said he wanted to "find out all about the moon and all that," became an astrophysicist. We saw how Neil went from a bright Liverpoolian boy with a wild imagination to a troubled, lonely man — wandering and homeless in the Shetland Isles.

It became the ultimate human drama, unfolding before our very eyes. We saw 14 lives played out before us, from childhood to adolescence to maturity. We witnessed the shift from infant idealism to pragmatic adulthood, the heartbreak of failed love, the ageing process. As the producer Michael Apted — who began as a researcher on the first film and went on to become a major Hollywood director — has explained, what began as a "thinly disguised political polemic" became something universal, its themes "success, failure, promise and disappointment." In a way, the Up series is like a man, "Give me the child until he is seven and I will show you the man."

Jim Carrey movie which tells of a life played out entirely on camera. But it's scope is somewhat grander than that. It is, perhaps, the closest television could get to Shakespeare's seven ages of man. For unlike the movie, which lasts a couple of hours, this story is being played out in real time: as the characters age, so do we. Now, as we shall see in three weeks' time, they are 42.

No wonder teacher training colleges throughout the English-speaking world show the Up series as a primer on child development. The films are rich in psychological insight, even down to the poignant continuities between past and present selves — from the fatherless boy who grows up to have six children of his own to the child in care who longs for a home and ends up building houses.

But the films have another value, too. Apted says "they have become a kind of road map of contemporary English history." He's not far off.

THE original point about class has receded some what over the years, but the newest programme shows the founding insight of 1964 remains pertinent and sharp. John is now a mega-earning QC. Lynn is struggling, and her fellow east-enders, Jackie, has to decide whether to pay her bills or feed her children — she can't do both. Watching 42 Up, you feel it could hardly have been any other way.

Other social changes are on display, too — often inadvertently. Flashbacks to the first programme have the narrator wondering, "Who will be the executive and the shop steward of the year 2000?" How revealing that those two roles

were seen as equal back then — and how indicative of our current times that even the phrase "shop steward" sounds so dated now.

Most striking of all, only four of the 14 subjects are female. "I've suffered for that mistake," confesses Apted. "One of the most powerful political upheavals of my lifetime is the changing role of women... and I missed it."

No Granada team would make that error now: but in 1964 it must have seemed obvious that an active, changing life would be the preserve of men.

Even class, the core of the founding idea, was slightly off-beam. Apted and his colleagues drew from opposite poles, picking toddlers in blue blazers and tykes with hairy fingers. But they missed the vast middle class where most of Britain now crowds together. To cap it all, the programme is now on the BBC — testament to the deregulated times in which we live.

It all makes compelling viewing, with genuine cliffhangers: Is Neil still homeless? Is chirpy Tony still driving a cab? But the series also offers a useful glimpse of the nation we are and the people we might become. Lady Howe and the others should bear that in mind next time they try to silence the voice of real people on television. If Vanessa, Kilroy and the other kids are the price for gains like 42 Up, then it's a bargain.

Image of men is Brassed Off and The Full Monty. Whose side would you be on, Ivana's or Robert Carlisle's? For men, no job, no role, no identity, no life. A flavour of that extreme hardship flows over into a new empathy for all men, even those more like Rotterweilers than underdogs. Odd time to choose — when football testosterone is wrapped around everything, even the buns and World Cup lettuces (yes, lettuces) in Sainsbury's.

Ms Weldon is a novelist. She doesn't much like facts. We've clashed swords before but hard information washes over her, because it's mundane stuff, lacking the fizz and sparkle of contrariness. Women's earnings — 27 per cent less than men's? Women at the bottom of every career ladder? Women the great majority of the poor? Not very good copy when you're promoting a new TV series. When Weldon turns her dizzy thoughts to violence, she falls right over a precipice. We're only beginning to uncover the scale of domestic violence, beatings by husbands or rape by lovers. Was Gazza sacked? Was Stan Collymore? Shocking, everyone wrote — yet in the end just a part of us, a rich tapestry of every country has its folk rhymes about beating women, donkeys and walnut trees. Today the BMA reports that one in four women are battered at home, usually when they have young children, and only a third report it to police.

As for her views on rape, she is hardly making a ground-breaking point when she suggests it's not that bad — because it would be a bit less distressing than having your throat cut or your brains dashed out. To be sure, there have been eccentric feminists on the wilder fringes who say all penetration is rape, and all men are rapists. But what an

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I exaggerate a bit, but it sounds like awful old hat now, doesn't it? Any half-hearted woman's studies course will trot through all that in suitably impenetrable academic gobbledegook with multiple self-referential footnotes to make it look respectable.

But what does Fay Weldon mean when she says women have it all and men now need our concern? Some women have it all — money, power, success, four children, partner, Range Rover, Labrador, nanny and cottage in Bourton-on-the-Water. On these lucky ones the magazines feast and gloat, though a few Ivana Trumps, Nicola Horlicks, or even 100 MPs don't reveal much of the truth about women. But their image sells: women triumphant are a better story than woman down-trodden — again. Meanwhile the equivalent fashionable

Fay plays the fool

Poly Toynbee



FEMINISM is boring. It's predictable, worthy, pedantic and devoid of glamour. It's also social death. Introduce someone as a feminist and people run as from a Christian, vegan or stamp collector. Apostasy, on the other hand, is sexy. This simple truth has been discovered by many a founding feminist over recent years, from Germaine Greer to Kate Millett.

Apostasy brings you new friends, along with exciting new enemies. It makes the world sit up and take notice when everyone is weary of all the old things you used to say. Apostasy is highly profitable too. And it offers the pleasing delusion of a sudden Damascene conversion. If you are feeling your age, it gives you a better rush than RRR. It brings back the radical martyrdom of your youth, relives the glory days when feminism shocked. Now you can shock again, as Fay Weldon has with her new view that feminism is destructive and men are the ones who need pity.

This week she has commanded some spicy early headlines with the blithe pen-see that rape isn't really all that bad.

Fay Weldon is revelling in her rediscovered role as a controversialist. She is also doing well at promoting her latest TV series, *Big Women*, about a 1970s all-women publishing house under the distinctly resonant imprint, Medusa. (Who can she mean?) She is fast finding new friends in the rightwing press who welcome her as their latest champion of the male backlash, a friend of men. Hello boys! We all know feminists hate men. Sour, humourless, sexless as the suffragettes, they just go on whingeing, locked in perpetual victimhood. Who wants to be one then?

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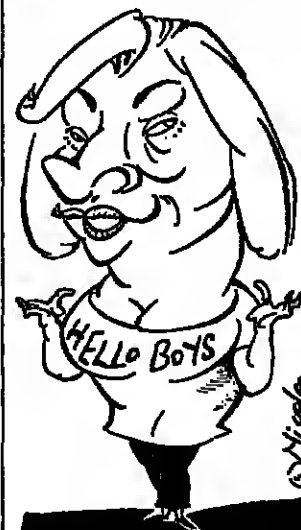
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odd time to suggest rape should be made a lesser crime: "It'd like to see it defused for women and deglamorised for men by returning it to the category of aggravated assault." Only this month the Home Office itself sounded the alarm that rape reported to the police has increased fourfold in the past decade, while the number of rapists jailed has dropped from 94 per cent to just 9 per cent.

Stop press! What's this? As I write, a press release from Weldon hits the desk. She regrets the long tape-recorded interview she gave to the Radio Times in which she said these things. Now she says: "I want the offence of rape to be upgraded not down-graded... This is what comes of talking about rape to a male journalist. For all I care rapists can be strung from lamp-posts. Rape is a banal, evil and hideous assault. It is a perversion of sex. No penalties could be enough."

Well, her distinguished interviewer was Andrew Duncan. Now, conveniently, he's a reliable male, and she, by implication, is appealing to the sisterhood for sympathy! However, he not only taped his interview, but checked the text back with her as well, especially the surprising bit about rape. Feminism can sometimes be the last refuge of women on the run who've made silly fools of themselves.



Fay Weldon is the latest champion of the male backlash, a friend of men

No amount of clumsy spin-doctoring can disguise the uncomfortable truth. The Windsors waste money

Right royal rip-off

Luke Harding

THESE are challenging times for Simon Lewis, the royal family's newly-appointed spin-doctor. As he wakes this morning, he might ponder the following question — does Prince Andrew really need to play so much golf?

Yesterday, Buckingham Palace revealed details of the £17.3 million the royals managed to spend last year on travel. Aides did their best to put a brave face on the figures, pointing out that both Prince Philip and Princess Margaret had made use of their OAP passes. (The Queen, for reasons which remain mysterious, does not have one.) Overall, the budget was trimmed by £2 million, hailed by the palace as a miracle of cost-cutting.

Peer a little more closely at the figures, however, and one thing becomes clear: that we are being scandalously ripped off.

For example, the taxpayer picked up a £2,665 bill to allow the Duke of York to attend a golf tournament last July. That Prince Andrew is a keen golfer is well known. Nobody begrudges him the odd moment of ball-thrashing pleasure in a stolid life. Does he really need to fly from London to Prestwick at our expense?

Other "official trips" revealed yesterday include a jaunt by the Queen Mother on the royal train to barracks at Catterick, costing £16,000, followed by a plane home, at £2,300. The Prince of Wales, the most mundane events from his Highgrove house: £2,888, for example, to attend a royal film performance. Travelling by car appears out of the question.

Minor royals are no cheaper. The Duchess of Kent — a figure whom most people would struggle hard to identify in a half-empty saloon bar — opted for a

helicopter to take her from Kensington Palace to Brighton on a charity engagement last July, costing £1,889. As one Whitehall source put it bluntly: "Why didn't she just take the train?"

No amount of clumsy spin-doctoring can disguise

As one Whitehall source bluntly puts it: 'Why didn't she just take the train?'

the uncomfortable truth. Travel costs may have come down by 10 per cent, as royal aides are keen to point out, but they still represent an appalling waste of money.

Our royal family remains the most expensive in Europe. The Swedes, Norwegians, Danes, Dutch, Belgians and Spanish all stump up less for their

monarchs. No other royal family can command its own special helicopter. Overall the Windsors cost us £45 million a year to maintain, plus £30 million on top for security — too much, even for a nation which once boasted its own empire.

And uniquely, the Queen chooses which taxes to pay and which to ignore. She avoided 40 years of tax liability, while her wealth accumulated quietly. It was only in late 1992 that she reluctantly agreed to pay income tax on her private fortune. It is put at less than £100 million by aides — but the exact amount remains a mystery.

Unlike the rest of us, the Queen is not subject to 40 per cent inheritance tax in what she leaves to the next sovereign, Prince Charles. By the same dubious arrangement, any money left to her by the Queen Mother is also exempt from tax.

When the Queen Mother dies, most of her assets will

be discreetly swallowed by the Queen, with no inheritance tax paid. Nobody knows how much the Queen Mother is worth because, as in so many other areas, royal aides simply refuse to say. The Queen should volunteer to pay inheritance tax in full — before she is engulfed by yet another public relations disaster.

AS FOR travel, last week Charles and the Queen-to-be travelled from Waterloo to Lille on the Eurostar, to watch England thump Colombia 2-0. There was no evidence they were bothered by other passengers as they trundled through Kent.

Like the yacht Britannia, the royal train should be consigned to the dustbin of history. And the Queen should consider amending her husband and sister, by getting an OAP travelcard and a senior citizens' bus pass.

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'Trelford still doesn't let facts get in the way of his journalism'
Tony Banks, Letters

The suspects escape again

Time for a civil action

LIKE many long-awaited events, this week's climax to the Lawrence inquiry has been a disappointment. For five years the country has waited for the five chief suspects in Britain's most notorious race killing to be cross-examined. These were the five people, named by most of the 26 informants who called the police, after Stephen Lawrence was stabbed by a white gang and left to die on a London suburban street in 1993. Four of the five refused to give the police an alibi — the fifth gave an alibi that did not stand up. Belatedly, they were arrested and charged, only for their cases to be dropped at different points in the prosecution cycle. These are the five who refused to answer any questions at last year's inquest into the killing, citing their legal right not to say anything which might incriminate them. Now, under the rules of the inquiry, they were obliged to answer questions.

Each denied being a racist. They denied hearing other members of the gang making racist comments. Yet the inquiry already knew their record. They had seen an 80-minute covert police surveillance video, shot over two weeks in one of their homes, 20 months after the killing. It documented a torrent of violent racist abuse by four of them. The fifth was in prison. One talked of killing, torturing and killing black people. Another thought "every nigger should be chopped up, mate, and they should be left with nothing but f---ing stumps." Other lies were exposed by the inquiry. James Acourt

claimed he did not carry knives but was forced to admit he had been caught by the police carrying them. The contradictions were defended with either short, inarticulate explanations, "it didn't mean nothing", or claims that they could no longer remember what happened so long ago.

Alas, the most important question could not be asked: did they commit the murder? The High Court rightly ruled that out of order. Three of the men have already been subject to one trial. Even the nastiest of men need defending from being tried twice. The principle is too important to be bent, even for the most odious of people. The Lawrence inquiry is an investigation into the police conduct of the case. It cannot be turned into a criminal trial, tempting though that is.

The inquiry has exposed the ugly side of Britain: five sinister suspects, holding deeply racist and violent views, captured on the covert video wielding a variety of long-bladed knives. But you cannot be convicted for your views. What is needed is evidence. Early arrests would have allowed their homes to be searched for forensic evidence. Even the police now concede that the two-week delay in arresting them was a disastrous error. They must now also accept that their internal review of the handling of the case — condemned as "indefensible" by the inquiry — was a whitewash.

What can the Lawrence family do now? With great courage they have doggedly forced the criminal justice system to pursue the truth, even sponsoring the private prosecution of three of the suspects when the case was dropped by the Criminal Prosecution Service. Now they have sat through 51 days of a public inquiry. The agonies of watching the video are unimaginable: at one point, where the youths appear to suspect they are being bugged, they goad the police: "They can blame us, but they ain't going to get no

Opera's knight

Give them the money, Chris

CHRIS SMITH is obliged to respond positively to Sir Richard Eyre's report on what he calls lyric theatre in London but to the rest of it he boils down to the question of Covent Garden's future. That's for two reasons. One is the sheer earnestness of the theatrical knight has brought to his task. Here's no latter-day Binky Beaumont of Floral Street. For the role he has adopted the demeanour of a dour, if literate, cultural commissioner who (this is the post-Thatcher era, after all) criticises backstage trade unionism and other sources of "inflexibility". But the management speak recedes before some impassioned pleading for arts (revenue) funds: Sir Richard is asking for more, and specifically more for the Royal Opera. Having recruited him, the Culture Secretary is morally bound to accept his recipe. If he cannot persuade his colleagues, especially the Prime Minister (eagerly gladdening the hives the other night), his position is fatally compromised.

The other reason is that Sir Richard has indeed taken Mr Smith, the eloquent arts egalitarian — witness his performance on *Private Passions* last weekend — at his

word. If more people are to have the best in opera (and ballet), that means enjoining on Covent Garden a more adventurous policy on seat prices and outreach and awarding it a bigger revenue budget.

This report is not an occasion to revisit that interminable debate about whether high art should be subsidised. It is, and so it should be. The question is whether from the ashes of managerial incompetence (Sir Richard is scathing) a case for more can be pulled. The answer is yes. Covent Garden, under Sir Colin Southgate, is professionalising, at last. If it goes on to appoint good people, if it normalises relations with the Arts Council, if it stops being so snobby then some substantial increase in subsidy should be awarded. There is another "if". It's excitement on the lyric stage, performances that bring the house down, interpretations to set the critics alight, the buzz that comes from artistic achievement in an appreciative milieu. Greater access is not just about bums on plush seats or crushes in the crush bar, it's also about making this peculiar but civilised and civilising art form a livelier, more central part of the culture.

An exploding web

Now bring it to a mass market

THE IMAGE of the internet as a private community of culturally challenged young (male) nerds will take a long time to die even though it has long since been overtaken by events. The latest survey by the research company BMRB shows that it is no longer a minority sport. For the first time, over five million people are now using the internet in Britain and the number of women users is fast catching up with the men. In the year to the first quarter of 1998

Internet users increased by 41 per cent to 5.5 million, suggesting it has now reached a critical mass of the community. Some 40 per cent of users are now women according to the survey compared with 34 per cent last year and only 31 per cent in 1996. For the first time people using the Net from home exceeded those using it at work. And — in the final bit of myth puncturing — the proportion of older people (aged 45 or more) has risen from 18 per cent in 1996 to 19 per cent last year and 21 per cent now. Who said it was a young person's prerogative?

Statistics from the US show that whereas radio took 38 years to reach 50 million users and television 13 years, it has taken the internet only five years to reach the same number of customers. Whether it continues expanding at this frenetic pace will depend on whether access to the internet is confined largely to personal computers or whether it makes the jump to television sets (whatever happened to network computers that were supposed to do this?) or mobile phones or some other mode. Over a million people purchased something over the internet in the past six months. So far sales are mainly for commodity items like computer software, books and CDs but this market — like electronic banking and trading — could explode during the next few years. The biggest hurdle ahead is to broaden the appeal from the more prosperous classes (the ABCs) to the mass of the population (C2s, Ds and Es) who account for only 21 per cent of usage. This is mainly a challenge for manufacturers to develop a simple inexpensive delivery system but also to the Government to encourage construction of an infrastructure which will enable everyone to benefit from the awesome power of the information society. Tony Blair should want no finer epitaph.

Letters to the Editor

Bad sports on the march

[NOTICE in Guardian Sport (June 29) that Donald Trelford is alleged to have said: "Tony Banks probably regards (cricket) as a stuck-up game for elitist gits". I have been a regular cricket spectator and enthusiast since the 1950s. I was at Lords for the recent test match against the South Africans. Clearly Mr. Trelford continues in his practice of never letting facts get in the way of his journalism. Tony Banks MP, Minister for Sport.

RUDY Narayan was never part of the defence team of the Mangrove Nine, nor the Bradford 12 (Obituaries, June 30). We do not need these badly researched inventions: Rudy did more than enough, as it is, in his relatively short and colourful life. Darcus Howe, London.

JULIE Burchill writes like an angel and, although I'm 66, I can't help fancying her. But if she wants to complain about Professor Anthony Clare getting the title of her book wrong she should first make sure that in the previous sentence she hasn't mixed up her Julians and her Claudes. Surely the two old "fins" were Claude and Cecil ("After you Claude", "No, after you, Cecil"). Jack Harris, Dursley, Glos.

WHY doesn't the Northern Ireland Peace Commission set aside a park or a football stadium where the compulsive marchers can stamp around to their hearts' content and leave everyone else in peace (Orangeism, June 30)? Jean and Richard Wright, Ilkley, W Yorks.

NHS reform draws blood

WE now know that there will be extra money for the NHS over the next three years, and that this may be mainly targeted at waiting lists, buildings and equipment, and new developments.

If these are the priorities, then I hope that someone with influence in the NHS will give attention to the widening disparity between levels of nurse staffing and the increasing number of patients needing care. During a recent stay in hospital with a spinal fracture, it was only too apparent that the ward staff could not provide the amount of basic nursing care that was needed with the number of nurses available. Drinking, eating, voiding bladder and bowels, sleeping, and regular provision of pain relief are not exactly high-tech work but are extremely important to patients.

Nurses have tried to move from the old rigid routines of institutionally determined patterns of care but the aftermath of more personnel care from a "named nurse" does not seem possible in many wards with present staffing

levels, squeezed by years of "cost improvement programmes" and a top-down managerial culture which does not allow trust boards to speak publicly about the imbalance between workload and funding.

Patients and ward staff are now in the worst of all worlds with the removal of many of the old routines without replacement by a better system. Of course there are some inefficiencies — excess paperwork, rules preventing patients being given a supply of analgesics, district sisters taking blood when this could be done by phlebotomists — but there is an urgent need to look at nursing workload and staffing levels.

Just piling more work on willing staff is not a feasible option if "quality" means anything to the NHS and the Government. Dr Gordon Flegler, Morpeth, Northumberland.

IT IS wrong to portray the Government's recent announcement on the governance of Primary Care Groups (NHS reform concessions win

over the doctors, June 26) as "capitulation to GPs" (Doctor doesn't know best about patients' rights, June 30). Rather, the Government is reconsidering GPs' leadership and innovativeness, and their key role in primary health care, whilst rightly involving other interested parties in the governing of PCGs.

And it is wholly wrong of Rabbi Julia Neuberger (Letters, June 30) to say that general practitioners are not accountable to the NHS. They are committed to the NHS and to its founding principles just as much as any employee. The governing board of the PCGA, which will go live on April 1 next year, will be operating as subcommittees of Health Authorities, and working within the context of Health Improvement Programmes set by the Health Authorities themselves, after wide consultation with all local interests.

I agree with Rabbi Neuberger that it is essential that the public are involved in PCGs. Dr John Chisholm, Chairman, General Medical Services Committee, British Medical Association.



Trainspotters let off steam

YOU barely skated the surface of trainspotting culture (Leader and report, June 29). An anorak was a canvas shroud with a breast-wide pocket to hold Ian Allen guides to Jubilee and Pacific class steam locos and time-tables. In Leicester, a sprint between the LMS station and the Central station caught The Master Cutler London-Sheffield express — dash back again for another north-bound train with a 2d platform ticket.

We "cabbed" most of them (trod the footplate), clocked the Royal Mail coaches with outlying nets for mail-bag pick-up, logged the locos with minutes to plough water from line-side troughs, and made pilgrimages to Tebay where double-headers shunted for a Shap Fell climb. And we knew all the wheel-tappers by name. The anorak has been replaced by a business suit for me — but there remains excitement on today's railways. I'm off to Italy on Motorail soon. The burning question is: will they use the Frejus or Simplon tunnels? David Rowlands, Chichester, Hants.

TO KIDS of my generation trainspotting was part of growing up. To travel on pub-

lic transport on your own was one of life's new found freedoms. There is no doubt in my mind that trainspotting created in me the desire to learn and to understand the world that I inhabited. John Laurence, Boston, Lincs.

BOTH the humble trainspotter and the more highly developed railway enthusiast will know that the "Delta diesel" referred to in your report is in reality a Deltic. Even other readers, less well versed in railway affairs, will realise that the "Networker series numbered from 365500 to 365549" comprises 49 trains and not the 41 calculated by your reporter. Michael J Smith, Swaffham, Norfolk.

CONGRATULATIONS on other people's harmless pleasures is childish and should never be encouraged. But why continue to mock the anorak, a cheap and practical jacket worn by most people beyond the most fashionable London postal districts and far more useful than the over-priced excess of your fashion pages. E Anne Edmunds, Edinburgh.

A single currency, but two very distinct arguments

HOW interesting to see a pair of such contrasting articles on the single European currency in one day's Guardian (Come out of your tent, Mr Blair. The enemy is already at the gate, Polly Toynbee, and Just say no to the optate of the euro, Larry Elliott, June 29).

A newcomer to this argument would be forgiven for thinking the choice is not simply between whether we will use the pound or the euro, but between heaven or hell itself. And, as Polly Toynbee suggests, because we are so superior to anything continental the euro is usually depicted as hell.

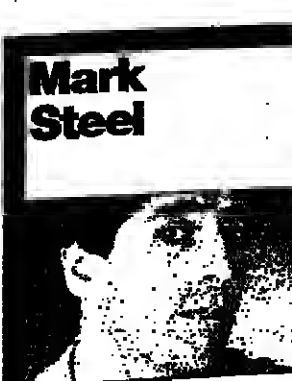
What is far more important than whose picture is printed on the bank notes we use is the knowledge that our currency will remain stable in value, have rock-solid long term interest rates, and that its management will be free from political interference.

In other words, the markets must have confidence in it. It seems almost certain that the euro will handily meet these criteria, and for once will be putting my confidence in it, over the ever declining pound, as soon as I get the chance.

It will be interesting to see, over the coming months, how many of EMU's critics will be prepared to put their money where their mouths are, and choose to remain with the expensive pound, even if that means higher mortgage rates and a lower standard of living.

Over the next few years, as more and more people in Britain begin to see the advantages of the new currency, I predict that many of us will decide to run our personal accounts in euro, and by the time the referendum comes around, the formal adoption of the new currency may well be just that — a formality. Robin Prior, Southall, Middlesex.

Homage to old George



EVERYONE loves George Orwell. Especially now that a 20-volume set of his writings is being published. The Daily Telegraph, for example, says about him was his ability to "tell us about a perfect cup of tea or pint in a pub". Which is a strange high point to pick from someone who wrote a book about fighting with the Trotskyist militia in the Spanish civil war.

So if you're a war correspondent with the Daily Telegraph, the article you're supposed to write is: "While gunfire rumbles around the hills of Kosovo, my guide and I continue to search for a decent brew. The Serbs, we discovered, tend not to warm the pot. And the Albanians pour the milk before the tea. While these practices continue, can there ever be peace?"

Apart from adopting him as a perfect Englishman, the right also love him for his anti-Stalinism. He was infuriated by Communist Party members' adoration of Stalin. Which isn't surprising, as CP members must have seemed like these women who go out with awful boyfriends. Every one was shouting at them: "Can't you see, he's starving Poland!" and the CP members were replying: "Yeah, but you don't see the gentle side of him like I do."

Animal Farm and 1984 were both used as Cold War texts,

and now there's evidence that he supplied British Intelligence with information, concerning which of his colleagues had communist sympathies. Although much of that information was useless, like the revelation that George Bernard Shaw admired Stalin.

The secret service could have uncovered this information by reading one of Shaw's articles praising Stalin. Orwell had plenty of reasons for disliking Stalinism. He'd found revolutionary Barcelona exhilarating, as "never before had I seen a city in the saddle". But in Homage to Catalonia he conveys beautifully the confusion which followed, when

the Communist Party began firing on those workers. Then tried to stop publication of his book, denounced the rest of his work and, proving that these things always come in threes, signed a pact with Hitler.

In other words Orwell despised the Communist Party not because it was socialist but because it attacked socialists. Yet he's portrayed as the most fervent cold warrior. Although in Animal Farm the pigs' transformation into tyrants becomes complete when they're the same as the humans. So both sides are equally vicious. Whereas if it was cold war propaganda it should have ended with a blond American boy saying: "Daddy, that pig said he wanted to turn our farm-house into a giant bucket of swill". And the father replying: "I know son, and the only way to stop a marauding pig is by updating your stock of ICBM warheads and threatening to nuke the squeaky bastards".

Similarly in 1984, the Stalinist state in which Winston

Smith lives is one of three dictatorships, all equally oppressive and constantly at war with each other. And I bet there were a few Western leaders whose initial reaction to the book was to think: "A few of those rat masks would be handy for our riot police".

Animal Farm and 1984 both contain the theme which runs through his work, which is a vague sense that, somehow, hope lies with the power of those he saw in the saddle in Barcelona. Though the way he expressed it may have been patronising, it was the miners in The Road to Wigan Pier and Boxer, the labouring horse in Animal Farm, which gave him some optimism. And in 1984 "there's hope it lies with the proles".

Which isn't to excuse passing on information about colleagues, however Stalinist, however useless the information, and however much he fancied the woman he was passing it to.

But for nationalists, New Labour and the Daily Telegraph to try to claim him as one of theirs is ridiculous. Imagine someone walking into Millbank and saying: "Ah Mr Mandelson, I resigned from the police, became a tramp and fired a rifle at the bourgeoisie. Any chance of a safe seat and a place on the NEC?"

If New Labour had been in government during Orwell's life, that would have got him denounced by Jack Straw for demoralising the police force, condemned by Blair for aggressive begging and drenched in Spain from a water cannon supplied by Robin Cook.

And a Daily Telegraph editorial praising Orwell in 1998 would have been wonderful. "As one peruses the options available amidst the strife-torn Spanish nation, one is inexorably drawn towards the prognosis offered by Mr George Orwell, particularly his consideration that the preferable outcome for all concerned is that the workers should be in the saddle."

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Analysis The Japanese economy



Hello boys,
I'm Fay
10

Banking on disaster

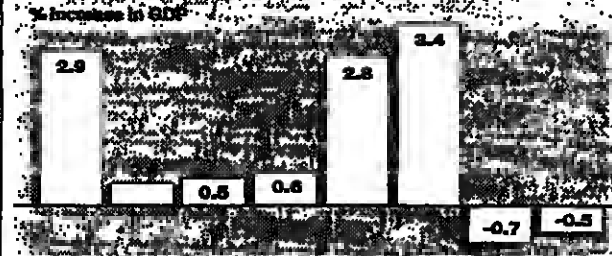
Reformers in Tokyo are praying for unremitting outside pressure on the yen. It's the only way to salvation, reports **Alex Brummer**

A DEBT the size of Canada. Since the bubble economy of the late '80s exploded, Japan's banks and finance houses have been sinking further and further into the red. The financial sector's bad debt is about \$500 billion — roughly the entire national wealth of Canada. Now, after much deliberation and consultation, which is the way in Japan, the ruling elites commanded by the prime minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, are putting the finishing touches to a plan for national financial salvation. But in Japan everything has to proceed by consensus among the bureaucratic elites. It has taken an extraordinary amount of time to galvanise the authorities into action. Legislation has been passed by the Diet, the Japanese Parliament. Funds have been allocated for a fund to deal with the bad debts built up by the banks in the property and construction sectors. Yet it is almost impossible to persuade the lumbering bureaucracies to act. In the banking sector years of lavish entertaining, gifts and corruption have taken their toll of reformers' appetites; the Ministry of Finance has been especially uninterested in sorting things out.

If the crisis in banking is the most obvious sign of Japanese malaise, it is not the only one. In industrial circles, in the Keidanren, the employers' organisation, among intellectuals and in research institutes such as Nomura (NIR) and Daiwa (DIR) there's growing recognition that fundamental reform is needed if Japan is to enter the 21st century in any kind of fit condition — reform in its political, industrial, economic and financial institutions will have to take place and rapidly. The pace of change is already being forced by banking disaster. Japan's financial system is experiencing the Big Bang which took place in the City of London more than 10 years ago. The hope is that a more dynamic capital market, similar to those in the Anglo-Saxon economies, has the best chance of delivering growth and better living standards in the future.

Here, reform has been driven by necessity, the yen falling in value and stock market prices halving at a time when financial markets around the world have reached new peaks. But extending the will to change to other sectors of the economy is proving much more difficult. There is absolutely no doubt that Japan is a huge manufacturing success, a fact reflected in its enormous trade surpluses. Consumers around the world have an unquenchable appetite for Japanese goods. Japan's industrial sector has been remarkably successful in taking electronic concepts and engineering them commercially. It also has skillfully engineered a set of cartels, ensuring Japanese domination in certain component areas, such as the coatings for silicon chips. But the so-called conveyor system at the heart of the Japanese industrial machine — in which young people are recruited directly from school or university and proceed steadily on an upward path through to retirement irrespective of ability — makes it difficult for corporations to adapt and cope with change.

The dark nineties



eliminated elsewhere by downsizing, outsourcing and the application of new information technologies. Japan is not even on the ground floor in the great communications revolution. Then there is government. Government in Japan harbours mysteries similar to those which long made understanding communist states so difficult. Historically power was not wielded by government but by the permanent bureaucracies. Only the exposure of the depth of corruption inside the most all-powerful of those departments, the Ministry of Finance, has steered the arms of the elected politicians to think up ways of whittling down their control. A start has been made on reconquering the financial bureaucracy — by cutting the Ministry of Finance down to size. This is being done by gradually reducing its functions. As in Britain the power to set interest rates and control the money supply has been removed from the Ministry of Finance and given to a newly-independent central bank. The Bank of Japan has already begun to flex its muscles, noting that under its articles of association it has the power to punish bank executives who fail to disclose probable loans on their books. The

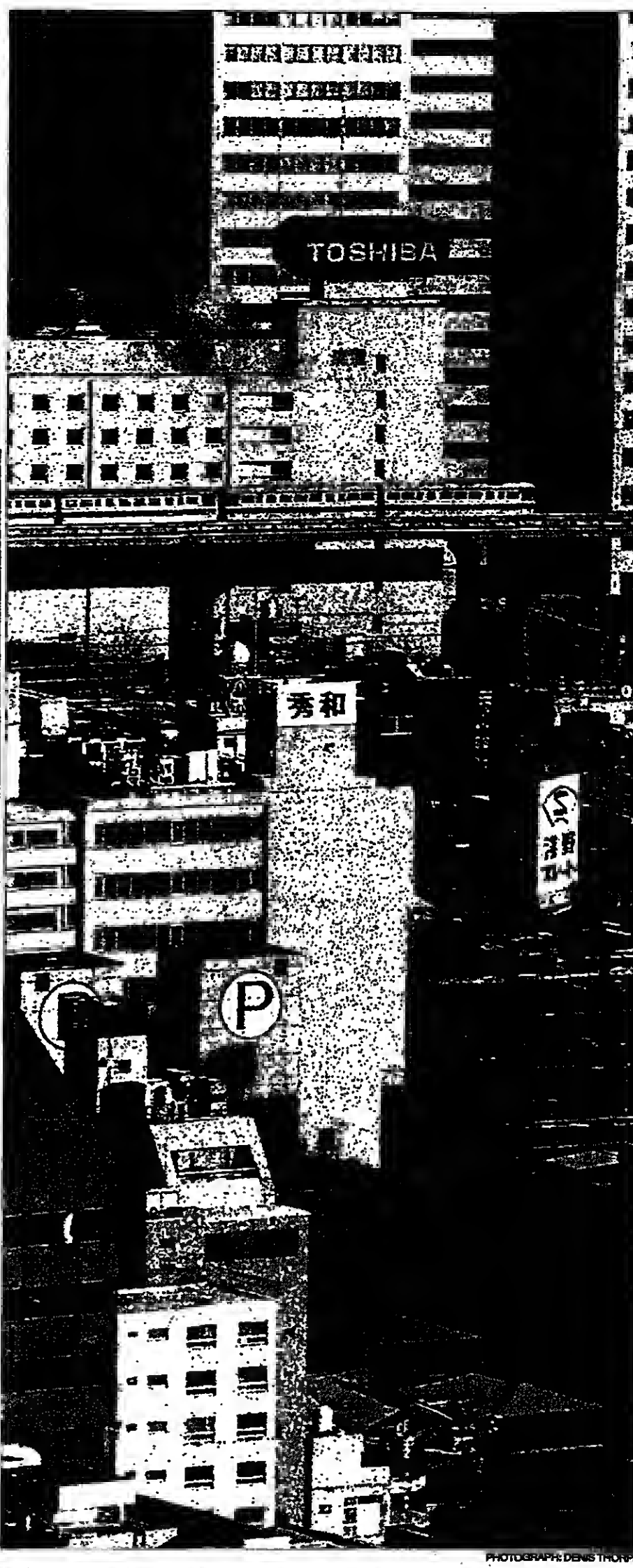
Bank is also developing an independent monetary strategy for refloating the economy, though it is holding fire until it is satisfied that the government and the Ministry of Finance are prepared to act on long-term fiscal reform.

In the past economic forecasting and planning have also fallen under the spell of the Finance Ministry. This is changing. The Economic Planning Agency, an army of some 500 economists and policy-makers, has been attached to the office of the prime minister. Here it will operate as the Office of Management and Budget and the Council of Economic Advisers does in the United States, providing analytic back-up for the politicians.

The EPA was responsible for framing the most recent stimulus package for the Japanese economy, the largest ever, worth yen 12 trillion (\$83 billion) or some 2 per cent of GDP. This time around, however, reflecting the new reality in Japan, the EPA — facing opposition from traditionalist political forces — has forged an expansion package which for the first time includes tax cuts (as opposed to public works programmes) and has set money aside for "social capital formation" (1).

This is a set of public spending programmes aimed at improving the supply side of the economy providing, for example, investment in communications, science and technology, all areas where Japan is now behind the rest of the advanced world. They also include social and education projects designed to improve the quality of health care and the people emerging from the schools, as well as encouraging greater environmental awareness.

A TYPE of alternative bureaucracy is in the making. The newly established Financial Supervisory Agency (the broad equivalent of the Financial Services Authority in Britain) is headed by a public prosecutor. Its task is to clean up the corruption and maladministration in the financial system and offer consumers better protection. Since coming into being last month its first big move has been to commission an audit of the the largest 19 city-centre banks — so that an accurate determination of the real level of bad loans can be made. Mr Hashimoto's intention in developing these new bureaucracies has been to weaken the grip of the Ministry of Finance, its official arena has now been substan-



tially narrowed to budgetary and tax policy.

But tax policy is vital. Japan's tax system is the most intrusive in the Western world with personal rates reaching some 63 per cent, when local government taxes are included. These tax rates and the high degree of progressiveness in the system fits neatly with the "conveyor system" where differentials are narrow and the range of income flat (this fits in the face of the supply side economics which became fashionable under President Reagan in the United States and Margaret Thatcher in the 1980s). Japanese taxes are seen as too high, thereby discouraging consumption, and tax rates oppressive, discouraging initiative and enterprise. Until the way that taxes are levied is fundamentally altered, unblocking the conveyor system and opening up the Japanese economy to more imported goods will be that much more difficult. Besides, Japan has now promised reform to the Group of Seven and in particular the United States.

In terms of economic recovery tax reform is at the heart of the debate about the nation's future. The Ministry of Finance is determined to keep the budget deficit as the key to future policy, at 7 per cent of GDP the deficit is more than twice that of EU countries as a whole. The Ministry of Finance wants to leave in place a fiscal austerity package, in order to begin reducing this proportion.

BUT most private sector economists believe this would be a catastrophe. It would contribute to a further diminution of consumer confidence and another dip into stagnation, recession and even worse depression. The Government has not demonstrated that it can take on the Ministry of Finance on this battleground, essential to long-term restructuring. In times of near depression, as Keynes' General Theory made clear, short-term deficit considerations become less important than public spending and easier money.

The ability of any Japanese government to carry through reforms on such a scale remains doubtful. Factions shift inside the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and conservatism triumphs. That is why some (for example in the think-tanks) welcome the yen crisis. All the time that the yen is weakening and Japan's safe system appears under siege from outside pressure for reform keeps up, if the yen starts to come back on the foreign exchanges, the old complacency will set in.

At their most optimistic analysts of Japan's industrial and economic crisis dream of a problem so severe that it will produce a change in the political system of Rooseveltian magnitude. A leader like Franklin D. Roosevelt would emerge capable of forcing through reform despite the obduracy of the bureaucrats.

At their most pessimistic analysts of Japan's industrial and economic crisis dream of a problem so severe that it will produce a change in the political system of Rooseveltian magnitude. A leader like Franklin D. Roosevelt would emerge capable of forcing through reform despite the obduracy of the bureaucrats.

Sources: (1) Fiscal and financial measures in the Comprehensive Economic Measures. Published by the Economic Planning Agency 1998; (2) Japan's Economic Outlook, Daiwa Institute of Research May 1998. Graphics courtesy Japan's Economic Outlook (details above). Graphics: Steve Villiers. Graphics Research: Matthew Keating. Alex Brummer is the Guardian's financial editor, just returned from Tokyo.

"Analysts of the crisis dream of a problem so severe that it will produce a leader like Franklin D. Roosevelt"

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FinanceGuardian

Emphasis to be placed on kitchens and bedrooms MFI to cut 1,500 jobs



Tony May

MFI announced yesterday it is to cut 1,500 jobs — a quarter of its retail staff — as Britain's largest furniture retailer sought to stave off a shareholder revolt with a radical shake-up of the business. It will shed nearly a fifth of its business by discontinuing such items as upholstery, textiles and houseware. All such stock will be cleared by Christmas at a write-off cost of \$5 million. The group will try to boost profits by concentrating on kitchens and bedrooms.

Chairman Derek Hunt blamed five rises in interest rates for the recent fall in consumer confidence and said trading conditions were "horrible".

Mr Hunt admitted that the board was acting under pressure from its largest shareholders, who have seen their investment underperform the FTSE All-Share Index by more than 65 per cent in the past year and watched the shares more than halve in value since March.

He denied that anyone had called for him to step down. "The shareholders were unhappy. They were quite forceful in their comments, but they did not call for blood," he said.

He agreed that the group had continued with a tired image and that, with hindsight, he should have changed it sooner. To save money he was scrapping the take-away

furniture format and switching to home delivery. So instead of driving away with cartons of flat-pack furniture, customers will select a bedroom or kitchen from the showroom, plan it with an adviser on a computer and receive the goods — still flat-packed — at home within two weeks.

Having warned in March that winter sales had been well below expectations, the company said profits for the year to April 25 had fallen 14 per cent to \$80.4 million and sales since the year-end had fallen 8 per cent.

City analysts — who cut their profit forecasts for the current year from \$80 million to as little as \$25 million — said the real reason for MFI's troubles was that it had misread the market.

Chief executive John Randall said MFI's decision to slash its product lines from

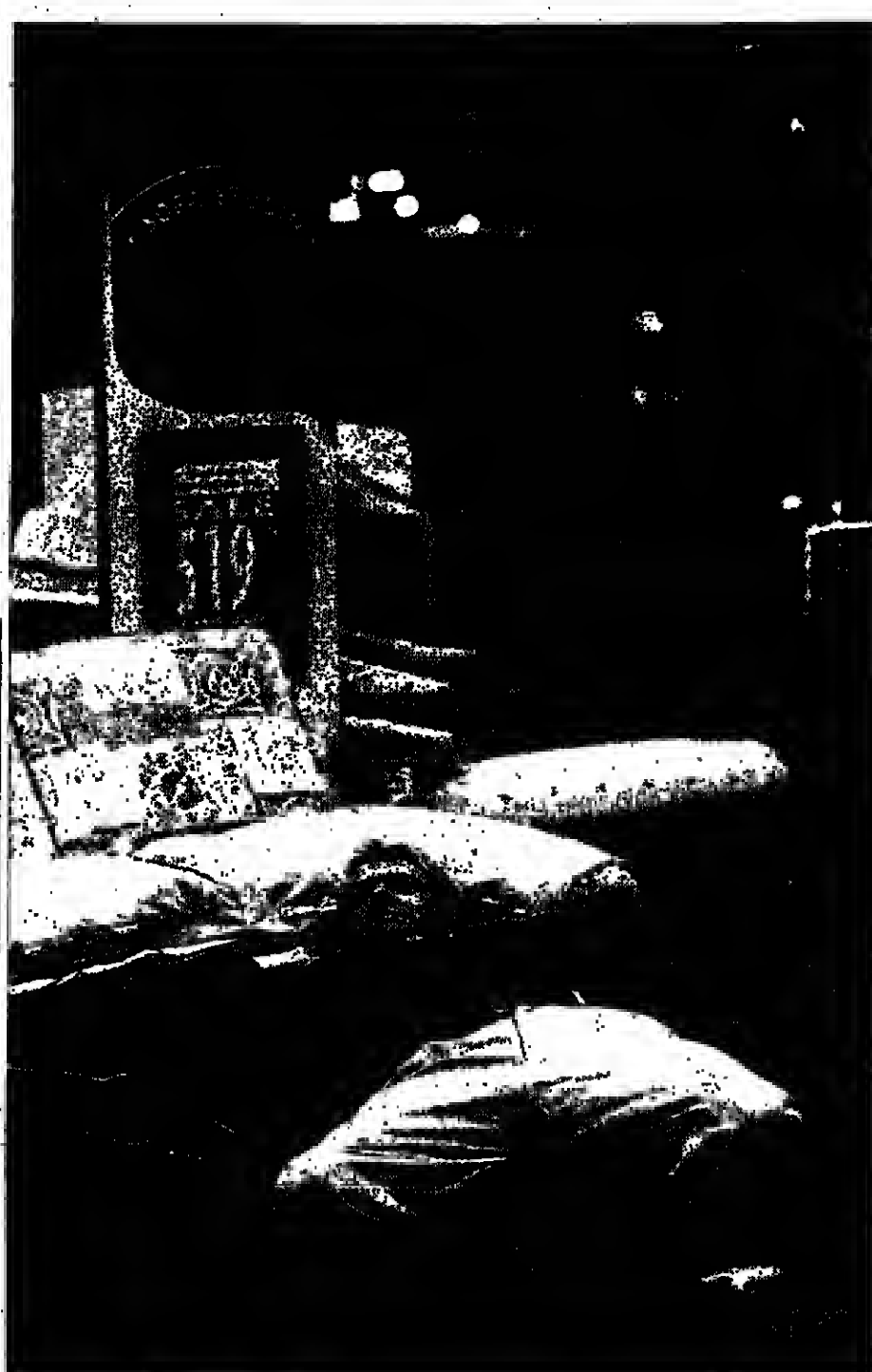
12,000 to 5,000 underlined the perception that newcomers such as Ikea are better places to get stylish and inexpensive home furnishings.

He said that both Courts and Magnet had managed to do better at selling more expensive, higher quality products in the same tough trading climate. He called for the group to ditch the MFI name, saying it would forever be associated with basic discount furniture.

Chief executive John Randall said some of the job cuts would be among distribution and administration personnel, but most would come as a result of the group shutting the warehouses attached to stores and letting the space.

Redundancy costs will be about \$20 million, but the group hopes to save \$25 million a year.

Mr Randall said the group planned to trade its way out of its problems by concentrating on fitted kitchens and bedrooms, but would continue to sell dining tables, chairs and home office products.



Bedtime... A customer tests the quality at an MFI store

PHOTOGRAPH: KIPPA MATTHEWS



Mr Randall said the group planned to trade its way out of its problems by concentrating on fitted kitchens and bedrooms, but would continue to sell dining tables, chairs and home office products.

MFI, which sells two out of every five British kitchens, plans an advertising drive in coming months and believes it can more than double its net margin of 7 per cent. The group will offer 45 kitchens at from \$500 to \$10,000.

The company wants to regain some of 20 per cent of the UK market claimed by DIY sheds and to launch a brand to cover the bottom of the price range. This would complement the group's Hygena middle range and its

Schreiber "aspirational" range.

Mr Randall said the changes would "give us a strong platform for a profitable future. We will be going back to what we are good at."

He said the group's main problem was not a loss of market share or sales but a

need to make its stores more profitable.

The group's weakness has triggered rumours of a takeover by Ikea or Kingfisher, or even by Malcolm Healey, who made his fortune from Hygena. Mr Randall said the group had never received

an expression of interest, let alone an offer.

However, the shares gained 15p to 62p on the results as bid speculation revived, although City analysts said the group would be in trouble for a year or so and a predator could afford to wait and pick it up much cheaper.

Notebook

Murdoch builds his war chest



Alex Brummer

RUPERT MURDOCH is simply very, very competent. So competent, in the view of his peers, that within 10 years there will be just two substantial broadcast left in the UK, News Corp and the BBC.

Given Mr Murdoch's track record, it would be unwise to write off his chances of achieving such a shake-up of the British broadcasting industry — even at 65 years old. His decision to float 20 per cent of his Fox entertainment business in the US is about far more than the publicly stated goal — a revaluation of News Corp assets.

That aim is already achieved. Yesterday News Corp shares shot up more than 12 per cent in Australia to a record high, matching the hike registered by the group's US quotation in New York in the immediate aftermath of the announcement.

forecast which sees growth dipping from 3 per cent to 1.75 per cent in 1998-99. Now, evidence of slowdown is starting to emerge from the corporate sector.

The results from the furniture chain MFI, where profits declined 14 per cent and some 1,500 jobs are being axed, suggests that the six increases in the Bank of England's repo rate since Labour came to office are starting to bite — with the company citing higher mortgage rates as a factor.

Similarly, Dawson, owner of the Pringle sweater brand, is being forced into retreat. The strong pound and the East Asian crisis appear to have been the main factors. This comes on top of some signs of weakening in the housing market with mortgage arrears starting to pick up and the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors seeing a levelling off in prices.

The biggest sign that the economy may have peaked comes from the buoyant global mergers and acquisitions figures which appear to be heading for another record in 1998. Such frenetic, end-of-cycle merger and management buy-out activity must be a sell signal.

China syndrome

THERE is no surer indicator of the pain which the East Asian crisis has brought than the decision of China to cut bank lending rates by 1.12 per cent and deposit rates by 0.49 per cent. Among the concerns for the West has been that China will feel obliged to devalue its currency, the renminbi, in response to the declining yuan.

China hopes that the rate change will keep growth above the 7 per cent level, although it may do little to assist exports at a time when the country's trade has slipped into negative territory. Another benefit of the rate cut is that it will reduce the cost of carrying loans for several of the country's state-owned companies, many of which are losing money, if not insolvent. But the timing of relief will be necessary if Chinese industry is to remain globally competitive.

Thorn relief

EVER since Thorn disclosed it was in merger talks in April, there has been speculation that Nomura would emerge as the bidder. Thorn is in just the kind of situation it likes — a company with a steady, if declining, income stream where with the injection of some cash and management efficiencies, Nomura could turn it around, as it has with the rolling-stock companies.

For Thorn shareholders, this is a get-out-of-jail-free bid. The price of \$80 million is a substantial premium to the market at the time an offer was announced and they no longer have to worry about the US legal liabilities — or Crazy George, one of Britain's least edifying retail franchises.

Growth pause

THE British economy was always going to slow this summer, but the strong pound, tight fiscal conditions and higher interest rates began to bite, but it has generally remained more buoyant than expected, despite an official

Pringle sheds 700 as fashion adds to its woes

Julia Finch

ASIA's economic crisis and the strength of sterling yesterday when the luxury knitwear group Pringle announced it is shedding 720 jobs.

Dawson International, which owns the Pringle brand promoted by golfer Nick Faldo, said the high pound

had made its products 30 per cent more expensive than those from its main Italian competitors. Some 50 per cent of its products are exported.

The downturn in Asia has left the region's consumers and tourists unwilling to part with cash for prestige labels. A third problem has been changing fashions in British shops which have left traditional lambswool looking outmoded.

Textiles group Coats Vella yesterday said it was facing the same three difficulties as Dawson. Coats, whose businesses range from sweater clothing to socks, yarns and Dorset bedlinen, said this year's trading is below the levels of last year.

The problems in the British knitwear industry were underlined last month when the Sweater Shop chain went into receivership and Glas-

gow woollens firm Grampian Brands announced it was to cut 120 jobs.

Dawson, which warned shareholders of its problems in April and effectively put itself up for sale by saying it was "reviewing all options available to maximise shareholder value", is to shed 400 jobs by closing two factories and cutting staff numbers in other locations.

Its shares closed down 3p to

a record low of 43p, valuing the company at \$85 million.

A spokesman for Dawson said that the company did not expect any further redundancies but would not guarantee that the job-cutting had ended.

The latest rationalisation comes on top of 1,000 job losses in the past three years. The factories to close are the Laidlaw & Fairgrieve woollen yarn business in

Galashiels and Pringle's Berwick factory. Forty-five jobs are to be cut at L&F's Selkirk operation and 50 at Dawson's Todd & Brown cashmere offshoot in Kinross.

The remaining 145 jobs will be lost in the company's British and German operations.

Chief executive Peter Forrest said: "To maintain a UK manufacturing base we have to be able to remain competitive."

Pensions mis-seller's delay costs £200,000

Rupert Jones

THE world's largest insurance broking group was fined \$200,000 yesterday for dragging its feet in sorting out its most urgent cases of pension mis-selling.

J&H Marsh & McLennan Financial Services, a division of the US group Marsh & McLennan Companies, missed a crucial deadline for completing "priority one" mis-selling cases.

This was one of a series of failings discovered by investment watchdog the Personal Investment Authority. Others included not having taken all reasonable steps to finish identifying which cases still need to be looked at, failing to monitor adequately its pension review and not obeying the regulator's requirements on record-keeping.

The fine is the seventh large penalty the regulator has imposed since the start of this year.

The mis-selling of personal pensions between 1986 and

The price

The biggest recent fines for pensions mis-selling:
June 30: J&H Marsh & McLennan £200,000
June 30: Lincoln Assurance £70,000
June 10: Financial Options/Investment Options £400,000
April 21: Sun Life of Canada £800,000
March 3: Britannic Assurance £525,000
February 6: Countrywide Independent £250,000
January 28: London & Manchester £525,000

1994 may have affected more than two million people and the cost of compensating them looks set to top \$11 billion. Many victims were wrongly persuaded to leave their private company pension schemes and take out personal plans instead. Last year the Government ordered the worst offending companies to speed up the payment of compensation.

Like many firms, J&H Marsh & McLennan, which is based in the City, was ordered to sort out 90 per cent of its most urgent cases by December 31, 1997 — including those involving people who have retired or who have died.

The company failed to meet this deadline, resulting in a visit by PIA staff in February. This unearthed a series of problems.

"The failings were affected by an inadequate level of resources allocated to the review," said the PIA, which also imposed costs of \$5,000. This relatively low figure reflects the fact that the firm admitted its transgressions at the earliest opportunity.

"We are disappointed that we did not meet the PIA's standards in relation to the conduct of the pensions review," a spokesman for the company said. "However, we remain fully committed to completing the review process properly and quickly."

The firm had "significantly increased" the amount it was spending on sorting out cases.

Lara Croft pulls in £3.3m for her real-life creators

Chris Barrie, Media Business Correspondent

THE two directors who created virtual heroine Lara Croft and the Dungeons and Dragons series made more than \$3.3 million last year from pay and share options.

The payments, disclosed yesterday in the annual report to shareholders of the computer games company Eidos, came as the firm returned to the black with a pre-tax profit of \$16.5 million on turnover of \$137 million.

Jeremy Heath-Smith, managing director of the Eidos subsidiary Core Design, was paid a bonus of \$1.687 million as well as a salary of \$150,000. Core Design is responsible for the Tomb Raider games, which star Lara. Her creation is regarded as fundamental to Eidos sales.

Meanwhile, Jan Livingston, Eidos chairman, made a profit of \$1.14 mil-



Lara fan club has helped Eidos back into the black

having the right to develop a video-game version of Mr Livingston's Dungeons and Dragons books. The company was in the process of launching the video game.

Ms Eastwood acknowledged that there was no formal arrangement for arriving at the bonus paid to Mr Heath-Smith. The bonus, which had been "much discussed" by the remuneration committee, was "effectively a royalty payment".

The payments came as the annual report disclosed that Eidos had resold Sims, a developer of military flight simulation games, to its original directors for \$100,000, having bought the company in October 1995 for \$2 million.

The payments to directors saw total boardroom remuneration at Eidos rise from \$788,000 in 1997 to \$2.26 million in the year to March 1998. Last year the company turned in a loss of \$5.5 million on \$75 million turnover.

Generators under attack

Celia Weston, Industrial Correspondent

ELECTRICITY industry regulator Stephen Littlechild yesterday attacked National Power and PowerGen for forcing electricity prices up by 26 per cent last winter when consumers could reasonably have expected prices to come down.

He also threatened to refer both companies to a costly and time-consuming Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry if they refused to co-operate with power station divestments.

In a report which signals his intention to be tough in coming negotiations with the two companies, Prof Littlechild warns that he intends to force

the sale of a higher-than-expected amount of coal-fired plant to other operators as a way to boost competition.

The report, published yesterday, says that during the winter of 1997-98 National Power and PowerGen deliberately increased the price at which they bid to meet electricity demand and at the same time cut electricity output to underpin the price increase.

Prof Littlechild added that further steps were needed to increase competitiveness because the ability of the two generators to prevent price decreases "demonstrates an unacceptable extent of market power". He said: "This is being exercised at the expense of customers and also at the expense of coal as a fuel for electricity generation."

TOURIST RATES — BANK SELLS			
Australia 2.65	Germany 2.9295	Malaysia 6.85	Singapore 2.78
Austria 20.85	Greece 494.04	Malta 0.5875	South Africa 3.5
Belgium 31.25	Heung Kong 3.25	Netherlands 3.2022	Spain 247.80
Canada 2.70	India 70.95	New Zealand 3.16	Sweden 13.00
Cyprus 0.86	Ireland 1.1559	Norway 12.47	Switzerland 2.47
Denmark 11.24	Israel 6.10	Portugal 208.51	Turkey 424.040
Finland 8.01	Italy 2.800	Saudi Arabia 6.14	USA 1.8214
France 6.617			

Nomura to buy Thorn

Julia Finch
and Jill Treanor

JAPANESE investment bank Nomura is to spend nearly £1 billion to buy Thorn, Britain's biggest TV rental firm whose brands include Radio Rentals, DER and Crazy George's. Thorn, which operates 2,200 stores worldwide including 585 in the UK, has had a torrid time since it was merged from EMI in 1996. Its share price fell from 410p to 136p as it became embroiled in potentially disastrous litigation in the US centred on overcharging.

Nomura's offer, through specially created company Future Rentals, is £980 million and taking over £200 million of Thorn's debt. It is paying 250p a share — some 55 per cent above Thorn's closing price on April 6, when the TV rental company revealed it was in talks with a potential buyer. Yesterday, before the deal was announced, the shares were at 210.5p.

Thorn chairman Hugh Jenkins said Future Rentals was a "natural purchaser" for the company and he was backed

unanimously by the board. Fund manager PFM, which has a 3.5 per cent stake in Thorn, also accepted the deal. The Thorn deal is the latest in a long line of high-profile acquisitions masterminded by 38-year-old Guy Hands for Nomura. His takeovers include the purchase of £7,000 former Ministry of Defence service homes and the controversial acquisition of Angel Trains, which owned a third of British Rail's rolling stock. It was sold last year for a \$400 million profit.

More recent deals have put the financier in charge of more than 4,000 British pubs and the William Hill bookmakers' chain, and made him the City's highest paid worker. His salary last year topped £40 million.

"Thorn is a business that will benefit from private ownership," he said. "Working with existing management, we plan to follow the broad strategy currently being implemented by Thorn which will, in time, enable the full focus of management energy on the UK business. The strategy is to sell all Thorn's foreign operations. It has already agreed to sell its troublesome US subsidiary

for \$800 million (£540 million). When that cash is received it will flow directly to Nomura, in effect cutting the price it is paying for Thorn to around \$640 million.

Nomura specialises in buying businesses that provide a strong and reliable cash income stream. It then concentrates on improving the efficiency of that cash collection and issues bonds which it sells to investors to recoup the original purchase price. Once the business has been improved, Nomura sells it.

A spokesman refused to confirm that Nomura intended to "securitise" the Thorn cash flows. But one analyst said this was almost certainly the plan. "Some of the rental agreements are 18 months in length, so they could easily sell them on," he said.

Thorn's UK business was formed in 1968 when it bought Radio Rentals, and it thrived in the following two decades as colour television and video players were introduced. More recently, however, the rental business has been shrinking rapidly as consumers preferred to buy cheap and easily available credit.

Thorn's attempt to diversify into personal computers was disastrous. The one section of the company to thrive has been Crazy George's, which specialises in providing television sets, refrigerators and furniture to customers who cannot get credit. In May it announced it was to expand into the South-east. But some analysts also believe that the outlook for Thorn's television rental business is not as bad as many have predicted. They argue that the arrival of digital and widescreen television could persuade many viewers to rent until the price of the new technology comes down.

Buying spree

Nomura transactions to date

August 1995	Phoenix Inns: 1,800 leased pubs	£250m
January 1996	Angel Trains: One third of the UK's passenger trains	£596m
October 1996	AT&T Capital: Finance offshoot of US phone company	£1.4bn
November 1996	Annington Homes: 57,000 MoD homes	£1.7bn
September 1997	Intrepid: 10 per cent of UK pubs	£1.2bn
October 1997	William Hill: UK's 2nd biggest bookmakers	£700m
June 1998	Thorn: UK TV rental stores	£980m
	Total	£6.63bn

Government to act as Britain's production lags

David Gow
Industrial Editor

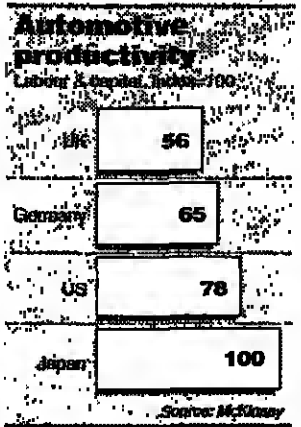
GOVERNMENT and industry are to launch a concerted national campaign this year substantially to raise productivity within British manufacturing after mounting evidence that the gap between Britain and rivals such as America and Germany is growing rapidly. Ministers led by the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, are increasingly worried that growth in British productivity, which peaked in the late 1980s and early 1990s through flexible working, has flattened out in recent years and even gone into reverse.

They have seized upon figures presented to a recent Downing Street seminar on competitiveness by consultants McKinsey, which show that in the flagship automotive industry UK productivity — both capital and labour — is only 56 per cent of Japan's. Labour productivity alone is 49 per cent of Germany's.

These figures relate to 1993-95, when the gap with international competitors which had previously narrowed had begun to widen again. But the trend in manufacturing as a whole since then has worsened substantially.

According to the US Department of Labor's latest statistics, UK manufacturing productivity fell 1.4 per cent in 1996, when it rose 4.5 per cent in Germany and 4.4 per cent in America.

Andy Scott, CBI director of manufacturing and international markets, said: "The size of the productivity gap had narrowed and we had started to make significant inroads in the 1980s and 1990s but it's still 40 per cent with the US and 20 per cent with France and Germany. We



have gone off the boil a bit." Bernd Hof, labour market specialist at German Economic Institute in Cologne, said: "It's certainly the case that west Germany has powerfully caught up the UK in the productivity stakes. In the 1980s growth in the UK was double that of west Germany but in the period between 1990 and 1996 the two have been at about the same level."

"However, in the three years from 1994 to 1996 the UK experienced a decline but west German productivity dramatically increased. Our improvement has been based not just on rationalisation and job-cuts but on modernisation through investment — as in the car industry."

Consultants at McKinsey, who are drawing up a special report for the government on UK economic growth, productivity and employment in advance of this autumn's white paper on competitiveness and next year's Budget, say that the annual 4.7 per cent productivity growth in UK car plants seen between 1987 and 1995 would have been just 2.9 per cent if the three Japanese-owned factories were taken out of the equation.

US dominates City Oscars

Ian King

AMERICAN firms' dominance of the City was emphasised yesterday when Merrill Lynch, which accounts for a quarter of shares traded in the Square Mile, swept the board in the annual Xcel survey of investment managers.

The survey, in its 25th year, also saw another thumping down for S&P, the Stock Exchange's controversial electronic trading system, with more than three-quarters of fund managers judging it no better than its predecessor.

The awards, regarded as the City's equivalent of the Oscars, saw Merrill and US-

owned BT Alex Brown — formerly NatWest Securities — strongly rated. "Best fund manager" award, voted on by finance directors from the country's 350 biggest companies.

Schroder Securities, one of the handful of British-owned investment banks left in the City, improved its rating but remained well behind American, Swiss and German-owned rivals.

Among awards to individuals, Fergus MacLeod, oils analyst at BT Alex Brown, won the best analyst award for the fifth year running. His colleague Hamish Buchan, who covers the investment trust sector, was given a special lifetime award.

Lax bank staff 'act on fake mandates'

Liz Stuart

THE Halifax and NatWest Bank yesterday pledged to review their security procedures after an investigation showed that hundreds of pounds can be withdrawn from accounts without a customer's knowledge.

Both banks said that staff have been lax in allowing standing orders, instructions to transfer regularly a fixed amount from one account into another, to be set up without the correct documentation.

An investigation by BBC Radio 5 found that anyone with access to another customer's account number can set up an order in that customer's name and credit the money to his or her own account. Staff from both banks failed to check signatures or account names correctly, meaning a landlord was paying rent to his tenant rather than the other way round.

In the case involving NatWest, the "customer" said he wanted the money to be transferred immediately, so the bank did not implement its usual check of writing to the customer's home address to confirm the standing order. "We were never asked for any identity check and it is relatively easy to get access to a complete stranger's account details," said a BBC spokesman.

"Anyone wanting to set up a standing order should be asked for identification. It appears this check was overlooked on this occasion," said a spokesman of NatWest. A Halifax spokesman said: "This investigation has proved there are some gaps in our present procedures and we will be starting a review today to ensure they are closed."

The money makers



Chancellor Helmut Kohl, left, and ECB president Wim Duisenberg struggle with technology PHOTOGRAPH: AXEL SEDSMANN

Britain gets seat at lower end of euro table



Tony Blair, as president of the European Council, said he liked the euro — but... PHOTOGRAPH: BERND KAMMERER

Mark Atkinson
in Frankfurt

BITAIN may be out of the euro but it has managed to infiltrate the European Central Bank, which will run the new currency when it is introduced in January.

At the ceremony in Frankfurt yesterday inaugurating what is destined to become one of the world's most powerful central banks, it emerged that the UK is providing more than 50 of the 455 permanent staff — a 12 per cent share.

That sounds impressive for a country whose commitment to the euro is only half-hearted — in favour in principle, but not yet — until it becomes clear that most of the jobs are low-level administrative posts.

The British have found jobs at Euro Tower, as the ECB's headquarters have been dubbed, because the new institution's official language will be English.

Just over a dozen members of staff are in positions to influence policy, according to ECB insiders. The vast majority of ECB employees are

from France and the host nation, Germany. If Britain's interests will be secondary at ECB interest-rate meetings, there were few outward signs of it yesterday at the city's opera house, where organisers of the celebrations to put on a show which made sure no nationality felt left out.

In the final formal acts of Britain's six-month EU presidency, Tony Blair joined German president, Helmut Kohl, and European Commission president Jacques Santer on the stage to deliver a speech wishing the new currency well.

He was met by a rousing chorus of Land Of Hope And Glory sung by the Royal Dutch Male Voice Choir, which delivered a medley of European songs. Former prime minister Ted Heath, praised by ECB president Wim Duisenberg as one of the

Shops sign pledge

Stephen Bates in Brussels

BUSINESSES and shops across Europe yesterday signed a pledge not to profit at their customers' expense from the introduction of the euro.

The European Commission produced a code of conduct, signed by several EU retailers' groups and consumers' associations, designed to give shoppers confidence that, in the transition to a single currency, companies will not round up prices or impose hidden extra charges.

Companies which abide by the six rules of the agreement, including dual pricing so customers can compare costs and a willingness to accept payments in euros, will be able to display a special logo as a symbol of probity.

The three commissioners spearheading the move, including Emma Bonino, who handles consumer affairs, were unable to disguise the fact that the new code is voluntary and will be almost unenforceable, because it will rely on local monitoring by bodies such as chambers of commerce.

Nor does it include the most important organisation handling the transition, the banks, which have yet to accept repeated commission wrings not to profit by the transfer of accounts into the new currency. Ms Bonino said: "Banking is a difficult sector. They don't want to negotiate with consumers."

The commission has been reluctant to introduce regulations requiring banks not to charge, partly because it is relying on them to handle the introduction of the euro.

founding fathers of the EU, provided another glimpse of Britain's past, while its future was represented by Mervyn King, one of the Bank of England's two deputy governors.

If the UK eventually becomes part of European monetary union, Mr King is seen as one of the candidates most likely to represent it on the ECB's governing council, a position which would give him a vote, currently denied, on the level of interest rates inside the euro zone.

Mr Blair gave no clues as to when that moment might arrive. Steering a course between Europhilia and Europhobia, the prime minister restated government policy. Repeating words used by his chancellor in the Commons last October, he said the UK was in favour of the euro but that it would join only when the benefits to Britain were "clear and unambiguous".

Any decision to ditch the pound would be subject to a referendum. In the meantime, Europe needed to concentrate on reforming its labour, capital and product markets to make them flexible enough to cope with a one-size-fits-all monetary policy.

News in brief

Pensions boost for former coal staff

THE Exchequer and 89,000 former white-collar staff of British Coal are to share a £880 million surplus generated "during a period of exceptional investment performance" by the BC Staff Superannuation Scheme.

The 72,000 current pensioners, who were in coal industry management, clerical and supervisory jobs up to the 1994 sell-off, are to get a one-off 10.8 per cent bonus — the second since privatisation — as will 17,000 staff yet to retire. Two years ago they got 6.7 per cent. Some former directors could gain as much as £4,500. As guarantor of the scheme, the Government will benefit to the tune of £81.4 million a year for 10 years once interest is taken into account. — David Gow

Tunnel costs warning

RAILTRACK has been warned by John Swift, the rail regulator, not to increase its charges to help fund the first stage of the £5.7 billion Channel tunnel rail link, which it is committed to build by 2003. Reacting to reports that Railtrack may ask for more lenient treatment when he reviews their charges, Mr Swift has told Railtrack's chairman, Sir Robert Hutton, that the charges must be "properly spent for the benefit of all rail users". Mr Swift says that if Railtrack diversifies into activities other than maintaining and running the 11,000 mile rail network, it must make sure that they are "ring-fenced". — Keith Harper

Casinos climb-down

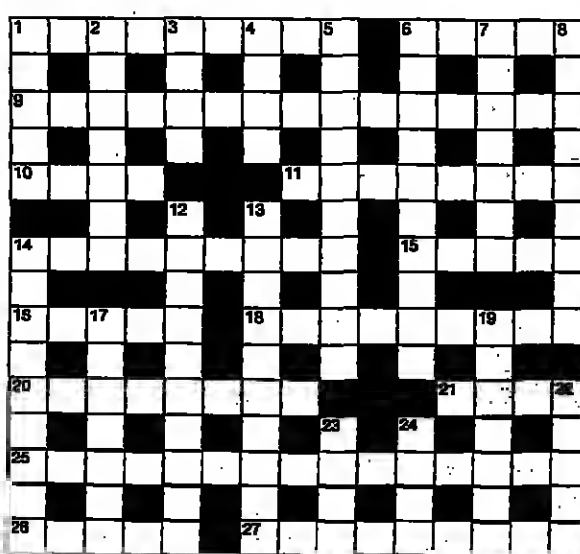
A TREASURY climb-down on casino duties will save the industry about £3.5 million a year, it was announced yesterday. The Budget increase to taxes on gaming clubs has been re-jigged to ease the pain and has been indexed to take account of inflation. But casinos will still be paying about £25 million a year extra in duty, on top of the near £65 million they were paying before Mr Brown's announcement. — Dan Atkinson

Mirror switch

MIRROR Group yesterday it announced it was appointing Victor Blank, the chairman of Great Universal Stores and the former head of Charterhouse Bank, as its new independent chairman, replacing Sir Robert Clark. A spokesman described as speculation suggestions that the group might change its name to reflect its regional newspaper interests. — Simon Beavis

Guardian Crossword No 21,315

Set by Araucaria



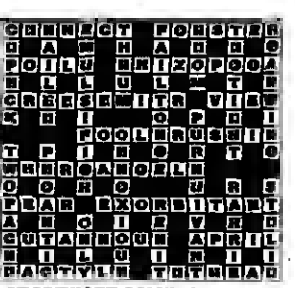
Across

- 1 Showman gives former partner greeting with gold piece (6)
- 2 Pain in the tail? (5)
- 3 Associate of the Senate House about now, a small-time saint (10)
- 4 Listen to the row getting more cordial? (6)
- 5 Pacman architect, a boy in the Silesian race (8)
- 6 Proletarian circle has a number held by a large dose of weedkiller (9)
- 7 The road to the left is muddy (6)
- 8 Part of the interior of Troy, they say (6)
- 9 Unhappy lover keeps changing tune — and he wasn't pressed (9)
- 10 Cook buys lard without reason (8)

- 21 The middle came after dark (4)
- 25 6 across, secret part of card-game (10,5)
- 26 Servitude left to countryman (5)
- 27 Greek poet is returning on Monday the 13th (9)

Down

- 1 The planet needs a change of heart (5)
- 2 Fashionable city for either (5,4)
- 3 Food causing complaint (4)
- 4 See 10
- 5 President raised hat like a cat's claws (10)
- 6 Colony gets money for subsistence (10)
- 7 Heat-resistant alloy from French interior is an alien entrant (7)



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 21,314

- 5 Fuel store cut having had longer life (5-6)
- 12, 13 9 in the slammer, corrective all needed (10,10)
- 14 Only rag to be used outside church, a rule hated by 14 across (9)
- 17 Psychologist's view about Pole — the other one raised silk in the past (7)
- 19 Sooty tern — which part came first? — sounds so Anglo-Saxon (5-4)
- 22 Repeatedly looked for men called Singh (5)
- 23 6 across gets water repellents put up (4)
- 24 6 across in the past cut short with pole-axe (4)

Solution tomorrow

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مكتبة الامم

In the World Cup sports section



France 98

Croatian penalty sends the Romanians packing 16
Saudie appoint German coach 16
Is Jupp Heynckes worth his weight in gold? 17
Brazil pine for Romario 17



Quick return

Old Trafford prepares for South Africa 18

The Guardian Sport

Wednesday July 1 1998 www.football.guardian.co.uk/worldcup

France 98

Second round: Argentina 2 England 2 (after 90 minutes)

England ten under siege

David Lacey sees Beckham sent off before Hoddle's men play extra-time in St Etienne

ONE moment of petulance from David Beckham imperilled England's survival in the World Cup last night after Glenn Hoddle's team had recovered from falling to an early Argentinean penalty. Yet England's 10 men held out to earn extra-time.

In quick succession Michael Owen forced a second penalty, from which Alan Shearer brought the scores level, and then the 19-year-old Liverpool striker gave England the lead with an outstanding piece of individualism.

But Javier Zanetti brought the scores level at 2-2 on the stroke of the interval and in the first minute of the second period Beckham, kicking out in retaliation after being fouled by Diego Simeone, was sent off, leaving his team to do the best they could with 10 men. Yet in the 82nd minute Sol Campbell headed in, only for the effort to be disallowed for an elbowing offence by Alan Shearer.

Glenn Hoddle had declared the better England often performed. In fact, World Cup history proved precisely the opposite. All too often England had gone out of a tournament to the first opponents of real quality they encountered: Uruguay in 1954, Brazil in 1962 and, yes, Argentina in 1998.

England had to debunk history last night if they were to become the first team seriously to disturb the utterly predictable pattern of a World Cup which has always earmarked Argentina as likely winners should Brazil falter.

From the start Argentina had the air of men about to hold a seminar in the realities of World Cup football, their passing and movement immediately infiltrating England's outer defences.

Yet the opening goal might so easily have gone to England after two minutes. A mishit pass from Tony Adams found its way to Owen, who ran at the Argentinean defence. He was blocked by an excellent tackle from Roberto Ayala but Graeme Le Saux drove the rebound to the far post, where Alan Shearer slid in fractionally too late.

Owen's speed was soon to bring England some reward but before that their evening had begun to turn into one of despair. In the fifth minute Ariel Ortega found Gabriel Batistuta in space but not thinking of a shot. Instead he slipped the ball to Diego Simeone and appeared to have overhit it, but David Seaman, already committed to the rescue, was suckered into giving away a penalty by the wily Simeone, who waited for the goalkeeper to catch his legs and the went down.

The strength of Gabriel Batistuta's penalty defied Sea-



Out of reach... David Seaman makes a vain attempt to stop Gabriel Batistuta's sixth-minute penalty, a goal cancelled out by Alan Shearer's spot-kick four minutes later

PHOTOGRAPH BY DENIS DOYLE

man's brave attempt to keep it out. Surely the contest could not have moved beyond England's reach so soon.

Well, no, as it happened the evening's second penalty brought the scores level four minutes later. Again Owen raced at Ayala, this time he was brought down and Alan Shearer did the rest.

Then, on the quarter-hour, came one of those moments of which football legends are made. Gathering a pass from David Beckham, Owen tore straight for the middle of the Argentinean defence. Jose Chazot was beaten for speed, Ayala could only have seen a blur of white, and even Paul Scholes was shoved out of the

way before Owen hooked England into the lead.

Exceptional speed will always panic defenders, no matter how good or experienced they are. Argentina dealt easily with England's centres and Shearer and Scholes often saw their avenues blocked. But one could almost detect the shudder passing through Argentina when Owen was on the ball.

England had recovered from their bad start in a way which few would have foreseen. But this meant even more was going to be asked not only of Hoddle's defenders but those in midfield, whose responsibility it was to protect the back three. This

meant Ince had to see that Ortega was picked up before he could set up the swift exchanges going into the area which would almost certainly bring Argentina more goals. Yet the next goal was so nearly English. In the 38th minute Shearer's head flicked Seaman's huge free-kick down to Scholes, whose blind-side run took him past the defence on the left. With Carlos Ros narrowing the angle Scholes dragged his shot just wide, a miss England were soon to rue.

Twice Campbell had thwarted Claudio Lopez, the first time with a clean tackle, the second putting the striker off his shot. Then, in the last

minute of the half, he fouled Lopez and the Argentinean coach Daniel Passarella could be seen signalling what he wanted from the free-kick.

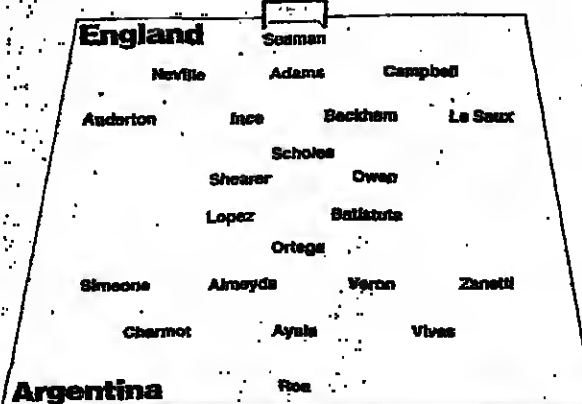
England soon learned the worst. Batistuta ran over the ball. Lopez slipped it to Javier Zanetti, who had suddenly appeared behind the English wall, and Seaman was beaten by a shot into the top far corner of his net. It was an old play superbly executed.

If this was a bad time to concede a goal then the opening minute of the second half was an even worse moment to lose a man to a red card. Beckham, having been flattered by Simeone, flicked out a retaliatory foot at his assail-

ant while lying face downwards on the ground. The referee, practically standing over him, was always going to send him off.

Hoddle responded by switching to 4-4-2, with Owen and Scholes on the flanks in midfield. Anderton moved to the middle alongside Ince, and Le Saux now an orthodox left-back. But what England needed more than a changed formation was strength of character and a lot of luck.

SUBSTITUTIONS Argentina: Crespo for Batistuta, 69; Gallardo for Lopez, 69. England: Southgate for Le Saux, 71; Harrison for Scholes, 75. **GOALS** Owen (England) Beckham (England) Seaman, Ince, Ros (Argentina), K Nielsen (Denmark).



THEY THINK IT'S ALL OVER... IT IS NOW.

ARRIVEDON

Road to the final



C

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	3	2	0	0	1	10
Denmark	3	1	1	1	3	8
S Africa	3	0	2	1	2	6
S Arabia	3	0	1	2	4	3

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	3	2	0	0	1	10
Denmark	3	1	1	1	3	8
S Africa	3	0	2	1	2	6
S Arabia	3	0	1	2	4	3

F

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	3	2	1	0	5	10
Yugoslavia	3	1	0	4	2	5
Iran	3	1	0	2	4	5
US	3	0	3	1	5	3

SECOND ROUND

GAME 1	GAME 2	GAME 3	GAME 4
France 2-1 Brazil	France 1-0 Brazil	France 1-0 Brazil	France 1-0 Brazil
Denmark 1-0 S Africa	Denmark 1-0 S Africa	Denmark 1-0 S Africa	Denmark 1-0 S Africa
S Arabia 1-0 S Arabia	S Arabia 1-0 S Arabia	S Arabia 1-0 S Arabia	S Arabia 1-0 S Arabia

QUARTER FINALS

GAME 5	GAME 6	GAME 7	GAME 8
France 2-1 S Arabia	France 2-1 S Arabia	France 2-1 S Arabia	France 2-1 S Arabia
Denmark 1-0 S Arabia	Denmark 1-0 S Arabia	Denmark 1-0 S Arabia	Denmark 1-0 S Arabia
S Arabia 1-0 S Arabia	S Arabia 1-0 S Arabia	S Arabia 1-0 S Arabia	S Arabia 1-0 S Arabia

SEMI FINALS

GAME 9	GAME 10	GAME 11	GAME 12
France 2-1 S Arabia	France 2-1 S Arabia	France 2-1 S Arabia	France 2-1 S Arabia
Denmark 1-0 S Arabia	Denmark 1-0 S Arabia	Denmark 1-0 S Arabia	Denmark 1-0 S Arabia
S Arabia 1-0 S Arabia	S Arabia 1-0 S Arabia	S Arabia 1-0 S Arabia	S Arabia 1-0 S Arabia

3RD/4TH PLACE PLAY-OFF

GAME 13	GAME 14	GAME 15	GAME 16
France 2-1 S Arabia	France 2-1 S Arabia	France 2-1 S Arabia	France 2-1 S Arabia
Denmark 1-0 S Arabia	Denmark 1-0 S Arabia	Denmark 1-0 S Arabia	Denmark 1-0 S Arabia
S Arabia 1-0 S Arabia	S Arabia 1-0 S Arabia	S Arabia 1-0 S Arabia	S Arabia 1-0 S Arabia

FINAL

GAME 17	GAME 18	GAME 19	GAME 20
France 2-1 S Arabia	France 2-1 S Arabia	France 2-1 S Arabia	France 2-1 S Arabia
Denmark 1-0 S Arabia	Denmark 1-0 S Arabia	Denmark 1-0 S Arabia	Denmark 1-0 S Arabia
S Arabia 1-0 S Arabia	S Arabia 1-0 S Arabia	S Arabia 1-0 S Arabia	S Arabia 1-0 S Arabia

Sunday, July 12 - St-Denis (8pm)

ALL TIMES GMT

A

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	2	0	1	6	8
Norway	3	1	2	0	5	5
Norway	3	1	2	0	5	5
Scotland	3	0	1	2	1	1

B

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brazil	3	2	0	1	6	8
Norway	3	1	2	0	5	5
Norway	3	1	2	0	5	5
Scotland	3	0	1	2	1	1

D

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nigeria	1	2	0	1	5	5
Paraguay	1	2	0	1	5	5
Spain	1	1	1	3	4	4
Bulgaria	1	0	1	2	1	1

E

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	3	1	2	0	2	5
Mexico	3	1	0	5	5	5
Belgium	3	0	3	0	3	3
S Korea	3	0	1	2	2	1

G

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Romania	3	2	1	0	4	7
England	3	2	0	1	5	6
Colombia	3	1	1	5	6	5
Tunisia	3	0	1	2	3	3

H

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Argentina	3	2	0	7	0	6
Croatia	3	2	0	1	4	6
Japan	3	0	3	1	5	3
USA	3	0	3	1	5	3

France 98

Second round: Romania 0 Croatia 1

Suker punch flattens Romania as Croatia enjoy big adventure

Ian Ross on a show in Bordeaux that will not unduly worry Germany

THERE SEEMS little chance this will prove to be Croatia's tournament but yesterday was their day, emphatically so. As the final whistle lowered the curtain on as poor a game as France 98 has produced, one could almost hear the shrieks of delight — from Munich, Berlin and Düsseldorf. On Saturday night in Lyon, Croatia meet Germany for a place in the semi-finals.

They will carry the hopes and expectations of many but it is difficult to believe anything other than that their marvellous adventure reached its pinnacle here.

The World Cup's infatuation with the rich and fashionable pushed this fixture into the shadows, it was the second phase's *blat noir*, a game awaited with slightly less than bated breath.

The sun shone on the Parc Lescure from a largely cloudless sky, swiftly draining the strength from already weary legs and reducing the tempo of a game which always had more to do with snakes and ladders than chess.

What tactical niceties had been worked out behind closed doors were all but lost in the early exchanges, a period of gloriously inept football.

The Romanians quickly got into their stride and unashamedly funnelled everything down the right flank using Dan Petrescu and Iulian Filipescu in tandem to stab away patiently at a Croatian defence based on enthusiasm but short on mobility.

But Croatia held firm, weathering what was more light shower than heavy storm and seized the initiative. They did not look back.

Romania seemed almost to revel in courtship, disaster, permitting themselves to be pushed back so readily that Croatia were able to dictate their own terms in a midfield where the pace was pedestrian and invention represented a simply completed

Croatia had almost exclusive rights to the chances throughout. They were unfortunate that in the goalkeeper Bogdan Stelea Romania could boast an individual who did actually seem determined to embroider his own reputation.

It was Stelea who stood between Croatia and a half-time advantage which would have rendered the game's second half an irrelevance.

Twice inside the opening 13 minutes he rose smartly to turn aside firm and accurate drives from Goran Vlaovic and Aljosa Asanovic. Sadly, Stelea was alone in excelling. Croatia had to wait until the end of the first half before their enterprise was rewarded and the afternoon's defining moment arrived.

Although Gabriel Popescu's challenge on Asanovic was clumsy rather than malicious, it merited a penalty in the eyes of the pedantic Argentine referee Javier Castellani.

Davor Suker's kick sent Stelea the wrong way but Mr Castellani was not satisfied that every other Croatian had retreated out of the area and ordered a re-kick.

Suker coped admirably — he drove into the same corner and although Stelea went the right way this time the kick was too accurate for him.

Golden Boot

Christian Vieri (It) 5
Gabriel Batistuta (Arg) 5
Luis Hernandez (Mex) 4
Marcelo Salas (Chile) 4
Oliver Bierhoff (Ger) 3
Jürgen Klinsmann (Ger) 3
Ronaldinho (Bra) 3
Cesar Sampaio (Bra) 3
Davor Suker (Cro) 3

Those were the youthful days when Hagi talked too much, chased pretty girls and his footballing talent became such a bore of contention between Dynamo and Steaua Bucharest that the Ceausescu family intervened and Hagi was finally sent to Steaua.

Hagi, however, curbed his wayward impulses and became an integral part of the Romanian side, one of the most consistent in Europe this decade, finalists at the last three World Cups.

When the coach Anghel Iordanescu pulled Hagi off yesterday in the 56th minute, replacing him with Gheorghe Croitoru, it appeared the curtain was coming down on a great international career.

When substituted yesterday, the lights went down not only on a remarkable 113-cap



Ball boys... Romania's goalkeeper Bogdan Stelea and Iulian Filipescu keep out a dangerous Davor Suker

Pos	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	3	2	0	1	6	8
2	3	1	2	0	5	5
3	3	1	2	0	5	5
4	3	0	1	2	1	1

Enfant terrible steps off the world stage

Paddy Agnew in Bordeaux sees the great Gheorghe Hagi take his international bow

IT ENDED where it began. Ten minutes into the second half of Croatia's victory over Romania, the one-time enfant terrible of Romanian soccer, Gheorghe Hagi, stepped out of the limelight in France, the country where he had made his first significant impact on the international stage as an 18-year-old at the 1984 European Championship.

On that occasion, Hagi paid a heavy price for his presumption and inexperience, being substituted at half-time in Romania's second game, a defeat by Germany. Furthermore, when he got into the dressing room that day, the then Romanian coach Mircea Lucescu gave him a vicious dressing-down, having held him responsible for Germany's first goal.

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When substituted yesterday, the lights went down not only on a remarkable 113-cap

record career but also on Romania's performance against Croatia. Hagi was not satisfied that every other Croatian had retreated out of the area and ordered a re-kick.

Suker coped admirably — he drove into the same corner and although Stelea went the right way this time the kick was too accurate for him.

Pos	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	3	2	0	1	6	8
2	3	1	2	0	5	5
3	3	1	2	0	5	5
4	3	0	1	2	1	1

Match stats

	Rom	Cro
Possession	50%	50%
Attempts on target	3	11
Attempts off target	4	10
Goals	2	1
Offsides	1	14
Bookings	3	2

thirties. In fact the side that lost yesterday has an average age of 27.4, more than a year younger than the Croatian average of 28.6, while Adrian Ilie (24), Viorel Moldovan (25), Iulian Filipescu (24), Gabriel

Popescu (24) and Costel Galca (25) should all still have six or seven top-level seasons in front of them.

Pituru's problem will be replacing his charismatic team boss, the man who, after an early first-half misunderstanding with Ilie, that led to Romania losing the ball, he then ran half the pitch to win it back, before turning to remonstrate with Ilie.

The coach is going or gone and Ilie, allegedly supposedly about to move from Valencia to Real Madrid, is the player most likely to be called on to replace him. Hagi will be a hard act to follow.

Team talk

The independent news and reports service

0930 16 86 +

German replaces Parreira as Saudi Arabia coach

SAUDI ARABIA has appointed the German coach Otto Pfister to replace the Brazilian Carlos Alberto Parreira, who was sacked after the Saudis' dismal performance in the World Cup.

Pfister, who has previously coached the Saudi Arabia squad, will be joined by Mohammed al-Kharashi as his assistant. The Saudi Football Federation has also approved plans to allow Saudi profes-

Pos	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	3	2	0	1	6	8
2	3	1	2	0	5	5
3	3	1	2	0	5	5
4	3	0	1	2	1	1

World Cup

Pos	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	3	2	0	1	6	8
2	3	1	2	0	5	5
3	3	1	2	0	5	5
4	3	0	1	2	1	1

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sional footballers to play abroad to gain experience — subject to certain conditions. Players must be at least 21-years-old and have already played for a professional club in the kingdom.

Jürgen Kohler, the injured German defender, and midfielder Thomas Helmer, hope to be fit before their quarter-final match against Croatia on Saturday. Both players have injured calf muscles — Kohler strained his

warming up before their second-round victory over Mexico while Helmer came off in the first half after picking up a knock.

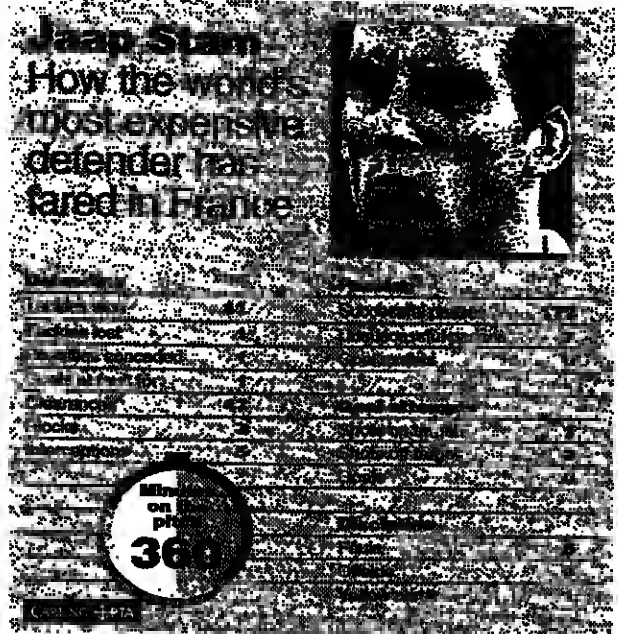
However, their team mate, the 37-year-old midfielder Lothar Matthäus has become the all-time leader in the number of World Cup minutes played with 1,958 — eight more minutes than Uwe Seeler, who played 1,950 minutes in 21 matches for West Germany in the 1960s and 1970s.

The Guardian INTERACTIVE

France 98

Martin Thorpe says Manchester United's £10million Dutchman is beginning to look an expensive gamble after a series of poor World Cup performances

Stam slips from first-class standard



Jaap Stam
How the world's most expensive defender has fared in France

Watching Stam's performance so far in France, some United fans might be wondering whether the club could activate the get-out clause on the grounds that the defender falls foul of the Trades Description Act.

Everyone thought they were getting an international-class player, but he is currently looking nothing of the sort. Holland may have reached the quarter-finals, where they face Argentina or England in Marseille on Saturday, but glancing around the various teams, one would struggle to pick out Stam as the player who holds the world-record fee for a defender.

His misadventure in Holland's final group game gifted the Mexicans a late equaliser and on Monday night against Yugoslavia he gave away a penalty. Here he was guilty of two crimes: getting so close to the back of Vladimir Jugovic on the edge of the Dutch area that the Yugoslavian midfielder was able to turn Stam, and get slightly ahead of him.

Then the big Dutchman was forced to pull the No. 7 back by his shirt, so conceding a penalty which, thankfully for Stam, was missed.

The defender's recent errors are uncharacteristic of his career. But he has only 17 caps and the mistakes seem to be increasing the more high-profile his career becomes. A sign, perhaps, that he is struggling to cope with the demands and pressures of life at the very top level.

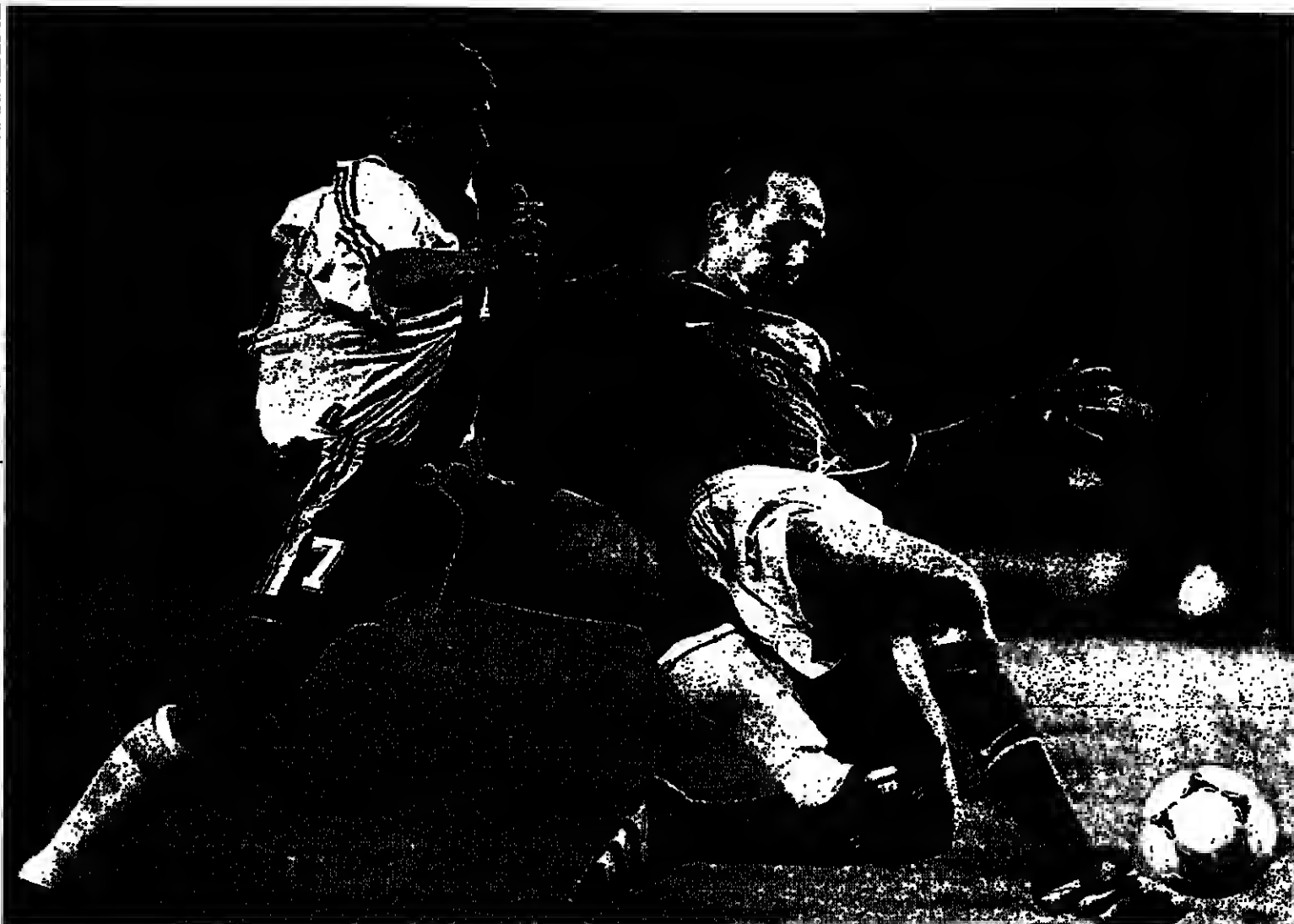
Stam also went through a two-month spell of dodgy form last season which was put down to the fact that he was in the middle of testing negotiations for his release from PSV at the time, finally having to agree to waive his signing-on fee to facilitate the move.

The Dutch are giving Stam, 26 next month, the benefit of the doubt over the error against Mexico, arguing that he was on a yellow card and, with Holland already qualified for the second round, Stam may have felt it unnecessary to challenge for the ball with his usual single-mindedness.

Certainly, in Stam's defence, he was Holland's Player of the Year only last season and played outstandingly during the Dutch team's qualifying games as well as PSV's Champions League run.

But any more slip-ups, especially as the World Cup stakes get higher, and United would not be blamed for having second thoughts about whether their £10 million was wisely invested.

Holland's right-back Michael Reiziger may be out of the quarter-final after breaking a bone in his foot against Yugoslavia.



At full stretch... Jaap Stam struggles to contain Yugoslavia's Vladimir Jugovic during Tuesday's second-round match

PHOTOGRAPH: RICARDO MAZALAN

Quarter-final: Italy v France

Italians have few fears about the 'wolf's den'

TALY will "be entering the wolf's den," according to Cesare Maldini, when they meet France before a capacity 80,000 crowd at St-Denis on Friday. But the wolf, wounded by criticism on Sunday, is also hounded by physical injury.

Thierry Henry, who has a sprained left ankle, was not optimistic about being fit for the quarter-final, and Emmanuel Petit may also be out with a nagging thigh injury.

A France spokesman said yesterday: "Henry is undergoing intensive treatment and it is uncertain whether he will play. He will be given a check-up in the next 24 hours."

The Monaco forward said: "All day I am undergoing treatment. I don't know when I will be able to start running again."

with the Newcastle-bound striker Stéphane Guivarch, who came on as a substitute against Paraguay on Sunday.

Petit was so determined to play against the Paraguayans that the Arsenal midfielder admitted: "I could not even walk up the stairs without it hurting but I did not tell anyone about it. I'm hoping that with a massage it will quickly improve."

Italy have one injury worry. Christian Vieri, the five-goal top scorer in the finals, trained alone for only 20 minutes yesterday because of a sore leg muscle.

But the team doctor Andrea Ferretti said: "It's not serious but there's no point in taking any risks." Vieri is expected to resume full training today.

Italy recognise that France are marginal favourites to win on Friday, if only by virtue of home advantage. The Ital-

ians may be concerned about Zinedine Zidane's return to midfield after suspension but they know all about the Juventus playmaker and the other six possible French starters based in Serie A.

A taut Serie A-style game would suit Italy and Maldini thinks there is little new France can produce. "I've done my homework; we've watched their matches. I hope I've understood everything about them."

Quarter-final Brazil v Denmark

Ronaldo pinning for Romario

THE whirl of dissension which has hung over Brazil's camp during their campaign was in the air again yesterday when Ronaldo made comments which carried an implied criticism of the coach Mario Zagallo.

With the team preparing for Friday's match against Denmark in Nantes, Ronaldo said he was missing his former striking partner Romario, whom Zagallo controversially dropped from the squad just before the World Cup because of a calf injury.

"For me Romario is a great footballer. And I really miss not having him alongside me," said Ronaldo. He has been unable to strike up with Bebeto to the kind of instinctive understanding he enjoyed with Romario, who has been sniping at Zagallo ever since he reluctantly returned to Brazil.

Ronaldo thought he should have been given more time to recover, believing he would have been ready in time for the quarter-finals.












Without him Ronaldo has not dominated the tournament as expected and Zagallo has said he could do better. His assistant Zico has also criticised Ronaldo, but the striker countered after the 4-1 victory over Chile, in which he scored twice, by saying: "When the team helps me I can help them."

Brazilian squabbling contrasts with the unity of purpose which has carried Denmark further than they ever travelled before in the World Cup finals.

The Danes will not be short of confidence after producing the first real shock of the tournament by thrashing Nigeria 4-1 in the second round on Sunday in Paris and their Swedish coach Bo Johansson has said his side will meet fire with fire against the champions.

"Brazil will attack — and we'll try to attack as fast as we can," he said. "Everything can happen in football, especially at this stage. I think Brazil has played better and better for each game. But so have we. It's going to be exciting."

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 France from 13p	 Cameroon from 56p	 Japan from 31p	 Italy from 15p
 Austria from 19p	 Colombia from 68p	 Brazil from 56p	 Germany from 13p
 South Africa from 38p	 Tunisia from 31p		

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Football

Smith in line to manage Everton

Ian Ross

THE former Rangers manager Walter Smith may be named as the manager of Everton before the weekend. Last night he talked with the Merseyside club's chairman Peter Johnson and asked for 48 hours to make his decision.

Only hours earlier he had been expected to confirm he was taking charge at Sheffield Wednesday; they had announced a press conference for yesterday afternoon when they planned to unveil him as



Smith... seven-year itch

the successor to Ron Atkinson, whose contract was not renewed at the end of last season.

But less than three hours after releasing details of Smith's imminent arrival at Hillsborough they cancelled the press conference, declining to give a reason.

Although it is believed that Smith had verbally agreed to join Wednesday, he had not formally committed himself to a contract and he accepted Everton's invitation to discuss the managerial vacancy at Goodison Park.

Smith stepped down as the Rangers manager in May after seven years in charge at Ibrox during which they won seven league championships — they were pipped by Celtic this year — two Scottish Cups and the Scottish League Cup. He insisted he needed a fresh challenge, preferably in the Premiership.

Although Howard Kendall parted company with Everton only last week, Johnson has been searching for his fourth manager in four years for the best part of six weeks.

But his initial shortlist was quickly reduced to rubble as his two main targets, Leicester City's Martin O'Neill and Manchester United's assistant manager Brian Kidd, refused his offer of talks.

Wilkins to replace Cork at Swansea

RAY WILKINS, the former England international sacked by Fulham in May, is expected to be unveiled today as Swansea City's fourth manager in 10 months.

The club's owners Silver Shield have turned to the former QPR manager to replace Alan Cork, who was sacked yesterday because of a disagreement over "his style of management".

Cork, who won an FA Cup-winners' medal with Wimbledon in 1988, had succeeded Micky Adams who walked out in October after only 13 days having, in turn, taken over from the former Liverpool and Denmark midfielder Jan Molby.

Chelsea's Mark Hughes may be on his travels again to Southampton, whose manager Dave Jones is awaiting talks with the Stamford Bridge club over a fee for the 35-year-old former Wales international.

Hughes has a year of his contract to run but may move to The Dell in a deal worth £1 million as Jones is desperate to boost his squad after the sale of the England Under-21 forward Kevin

Davies to Blackburn for a club record £7.25 million. Hughes emerged as one of Jones's targets along with the Blackburn winger Stuart Ripley, Matt Jansen of Crystal Palace and the French striker David Zitelli.

The West Ham striker John Hartson has pledged himself to Upton Park until 2005 by signing a three-year extension, which kills off speculation that the Welsh international was on his way to Manchester United.

Huddersfield's secretary Alan Sykes has called Manchester United's postponement of a Football League transfer tribunal to fix a fee for the winger Ben Thornley "an absolute disgrace". United claim they need more time to prepare their case and the meeting has been put back to July 14.

Reading's manager Tommy Burns has made an £800,000 offer to Ipswich for the former Celtic and Newcastle striker Alex Mathie and the West Brom forward Bob Taylor is poised to join First Division rivals Bolton on a free transfer. Watford have signed the Zaire striker Michel Ngonge from the Turkish club Samsunspor.



Back on the attack... England's Darren Gough, returning after injury, at net practice

PHOTOGRAPH: LAURENCE GRIFFITHS

Mr Blobby given out but Spice Girls stand ground

David Hopps on Old Trafford's curbing of fancy dress and chants during the third Test

LANCASHIRE have announced tighter regulations on the burgeoning trend of fancy dress among Test match crowds. For tomorrow's third Cornhill Test at Old Trafford, carrots and pantomime horses are out but any potential Spice Girl can still apply his make-up with confidence.

The imposition of the new code predictably received a mixed response yesterday. Paul Burnham, spokesman for the Barmy Army, England's loose affiliation of younger fans, complained: "It is typical of English cricket that they don't realise that fun is the only future of the game."

Nevertheless, the Lancashire initiative invites respect as the first considered attempt to reconcile the conservatism of the traditional cricket watcher with the more exuberant behaviour of the modern fan.

Admission over the next five days will be refused to "spectators in dress which is deemed offensive" or to those wearing full body suits, in particular the vegetable and animal costumes that are increasingly common, England, after the batting debacle at

Lord's which put them 1-0 down in the series, have also agreed not to turn up as turnips.

There will also be zero tolerance of "hats, wigs or head-dresses which will cause restricted views", although hair transplants are allowed, which at least will enable Graham Gooch, an England selector, to gain access to the ground. The headwear ban

'Typical, they don't realise fun is the only future of the game'

will be implemented during play by stewards, acting upon complaints from spectators.

Judging what is offensive can be a pretty arbitrary business — there are eminently sensible people who cannot stand the sight of an MCC tie. To minimise confusion, the Guardian is in a position to offer the following guide to the Old Trafford fashions:

Out: Carrots, pantomime horses, Mr Blobby, Teletubbies, Marie Antoinette wigs of the type favoured by Elton John at 80th birthday bash, excessively high heels, T-shirts with obscene or racist slogans, Viking helmets, nuns with unacceptable habits.

In: Spice Girls, Arab sheikhs, flat caps, Lancashire members' ties, England shirts, helmetless Vikings, nuns with acceptable habits.

Superman is borderline, although it would be a brave spectator who tried to stop him. Dave Edmundson, Lancashire's cricket secretary, said: "We recognise that the pure form of the game is not as attractive as it was and that there must be an enjoyable

stadium, will be outlawed, as the Old Trafford football and cricket grounds are only half a mile apart. Lancashire's experience will be closely observed by the England and Wales Cricket Board, which was shaken by the crowd trouble at the first Test at Edgbaston. More than 100 spectators were ejected as a colourful expression of popular culture degenerated to a drunken and offensive rabble.

The ECB received Warwickshire's confidential report this week and will thrash out proposals with police, security firms and representatives of Test match grounds next month.

One dubious recommendation is likely to be that large groups of boisterous supporters should be split up. Burnham, on behalf of the new wave of cricket spectator, insists that as a particular mistake.

"They should be looking into areas where people who want to dress and behave outrageously can do so together," he said. "They are quite happy looking after the corporate guests and should show more concern for the normal fan."

But experience of England's morose tendency during the football World Cup has stiffened cricket's resolve to resist its traditional behavioural standards before they are lost for ever.

England's Cassie Jackman has moved into third place behind the Australians Sarah Fitz-Gerald and Michelle Martin in the latest world rankings.

Cricket

Flintoff's star quality shines in the gloom



I WAS last Wednesday. I was at my desk writing and the television was on in the corner, sound turned down. I was dimly aware that the Lancashire openers were starting their rain-delayed NatWest Trophy match against Sussex. Suddenly, out of the corner of my eye, I caught a glimpse of a bat describing something close to a full circle and the ball crashing into the crowd. "Bloody hell," I thought. "That isn't Atherton."

It wasn't. It was Andrew Flintoff. He is a 20-year-old Preston lad, and if you have not heard his name yet you soon will. Unless something goes drastically wrong, he will be in the England one-day team next month and the Test team by next year.

Ten days ago he took 34 off an over from the Surrey fast bowler Alex Tudor, who was trying his heart out. It was the most significant feat of an otherwise insignificant season. On Monday I watched him at Edgbaston, when he scored a match-winning 70 in less than two hours.

He is 6ft 4in and 14 stone and though he walked on to a field stuffed with international cricketers, including Brian Lara, he imposed his presence at once. He assumed helmeted anonymity only reluctantly. His stance was ungainly, his arms stuck out towards square leg. But his defensive technique was solid and when he decided to hit the ball, he hit it with exceptional power.

Thus it was with Ian Botham and Colin Milburn. The young Robin Smith was rather like this; some judges have been reminded of Ted Dexter. I suspect Flintoff will play far better than he did at Edgbaston. But when you are that strong, the mis-hits go for four.

Of course we mustn't get carried away. The Minor Counties Championship is full of forgotten next-Bothams, eking out a living doing a little light coaching. But the mere sight of this bloke puts certain things into perspective.

Cricket administrators and writers fancy around, imagining it matters whether turpid mediocrities play in one division or 20, or which channel

they are on. I suspect one important voice is shouting for that moment to come fast. Flintoff is a state-school boy who came through the system of age-group teams set up to produce a new generation of stars. He has played for England at every level from Under-14 to Test. When he first came into the Lancashire side in 1995 it was said that his inswingers were sharp enough to force the wicketkeeper back further than where he had been standing to Wasim Akram.

Flintoff is not bowling much now. But if he can just do 10 reliable overs, Flintoff is a certainty for the World Cup side in place of some of the so-called bits-and-pieces players whose success in Sharjah temporarily deluded the selectors that enthusiasm could somehow be a substitute for quality. If he can take wickets as well, he will be a Test player indefinitely.

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www.glastonbury98.co.uk

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Whether you missed Glastonbury 98, or were actually there but couldn't take it through the quick to see everything you wanted, visit the official festival website to experience the highlights — minus the mud. Listen to live sets from Pulp, Blur, Underworld, Flamingo Libretto and others, or check out Radio One interviews with the band, Keith Allen and a host of other celebrities. glastonbury98.co.uk — it's good clean fun.

GLASTONBURY 98

The Guardian

Athletics

Radcliffe has axe to grind

PAULA RADCLIFFE will race Ireland's Sonia O'Sullivan at the British Grand Prix in Sheffield on August 2.

The 24-year-old Loughborough runner, who won the 5,000 metres in the European Cup in St Petersburg at the weekend, Britain's only woman winner, and finished a close second in the 1500m will compete in the 3,000m at Don Valley Stadium.

"Every time I race Sonia it's a very strong race," she said. "We have both got to be in peak shape and will bring out the best in each other."

"I was very disappointed that she beat me in the World Cross-country Championships so it should be a good race."

The meeting will also feature the European Championships and it's critical that I run well here and in Stockholm before the championships begin."

The meeting will also feature the world record holder Colin Jackson and Tony Jarrett in the 110m hurdles, the high jumper Steve Smith and Dalton Grant, the triple jumper Jonathan Edwards and Ashia Hansen and the European Cup-winning 4x400m team of Roger Black, Iwan Thomas, Jamie Raulich and Mark Richardson.

Meanwhile, the Commonwealth heptathlon champion Denise Lewis has pulled out of Britain's team for the European Cup Combined Events contest in Italy this weekend.

A ligament injury sustained in May stops her from long jumping and her Birchfield club-mate Clavia Court comes in.

Sport in brief

Motor Racing

Mike Gascoyne, the former Tyrrell deputy technical director, has joined Jordan as their chief designer. The Jordan team are having a poor season with their drivers Ralf Schumacher and Damon Hill still to score a world championship point.

Gascoyne, who worked at McLaren for two years as an aerodynamics specialist after leaving Cambridge University in 1988, is regarded as one of the brightest talents in Formula One.

Ice Hockey

Sheffield Steelers yesterday withdrew from the Continental Cup, 48 hours after the first round draw was made, claiming they believed that, like

Cardiff, they would get a bye into the second round, writes Vic Batchelder. Instead they faced a first-round tournament in Poland in September.

Chess

Peter Leko, the youngest of the Dortmund grandmasters at 18, is the clear leader after four of the nine rounds, writes Leonard Batchelder. The Hungarian teenager is ahead of six of the world's top 10, including the British No. 1 Michael Adams, who shares second place half a point behind.

Basketball

America's National Basketball Association has put the 1998-99 season in jeopardy after deciding to "lock out" the players last night following a breakdown of contract talks.

Results

Rugby League

MAGNUS COMMUNICATIONS CHAMPIONSHIP (Wales): Scotland 24-19 Ireland 20-22.

Golf

MASTERCARD CHALLENGE (Princes, Kent): J. Mackenzie (Scotland) 69, J. Wright (Ireland) 69, J. Bland (England) 70, J. Mackenzie (Scotland) 71, J. Wright (Ireland) 71, J. Bland (England) 72, J. Mackenzie (Scotland) 73, J. Wright (Ireland) 73, J. Bland (England) 74.

Bowls

BRITISH CHAMPIONSHIPS (Ayr): Scotland 2-1, England 1-2, Wales 1-1, Ireland 1-1, Scotland 1-1, England 1-1, Wales 1-1, Ireland 1-1.

Chess

DORTMUND SPARKASSEN GRANDMASTERS (Dortmund): P. Leko 2-0, M. Gascoyne 1-1, J. Mackenzie 1-1, J. Wright 1-1, J. Bland 1-1.

(Hull) 1 A. Yusupov (Ger), 0 D. Barmine (Finn), 0 M. Adams (Eng), 0 B. Smeets (Bel), 0 V. Babitsky (Slovak), 2 Almasi

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Bowls

Warwickshire's Richard Britton

Warwickshire's Richard Britton provided the upset of the British Isles Championship at Ayr when he defeated Scotland's former world indoor holder David Gourlay Jr. Britain now meets Steve Jackson of Wales in the final.

Rugby League

Robbie O'Davis and Wayne Richards, two Australian Test players with the Newcastle club, have been suspended for 22 matches each after testing positive for steroids.

Squash

England's Cassie Jackman has moved into third place behind the Australians Sarah Fitz-Gerald and Michelle Martin in the latest world rankings.

Rowing

Henley quandary as Argies strive to avoid the bargy

Christopher Dodd at Henley

THE topic foremost in the minds of the Argentinian team at Henley yesterday was when to find a television set. Their accommodation at a hotel outside the town is not four-star and they did not fancy a visit to licensed premises even in genteel Henley-on-Thames. There was always the boat tent, but they'd be in a significant minority there.

Overall, though, spirits were good, even if their sight in the Grand will be Saturday's cannon-bodder for Leander and Oxford University, alias the British national eight. Maria Julia Garcia of Buenos Aires RC stands a better chance in the women's sculls as winner of the lightweight singles at Hazewinkel International Regatta 10 days ago.

Today's programme of first-round encounters in six events holds dangers for some selected crews. In the Princess Elizabeth, which includes an unprecedented eight schools from overseas, one of the domestic favourites, Abingdon School, face Canford who have slugged a number of Gollaths in the past three years. St Mary's Prep of the United States may meet their match in Holy Cross of Canada.

The tastiest opener in the Diamond Sculls is between Peter Haining, lightweight world champion from 1993-95 but outpaced in last year's final by Greg Searle, and the Australian Tristan Pascall.

Cricket

NEWS AND SCORES

0930 16 13 +

Countries update

Derbyshire 24 Middlesex 33

Durham 25 Northants 34

Essex 26 Nottingham 36

Gloucestershire 27 Somerset 36

Leicestershire 28 Surrey 37

Lincolnshire 29 Sussex 38

Kent 30 Warwickshire 39

Lancashire 31 Worcester 40

Leicestershire 32

Racing

Tote aim for boost with a fresh bet

Graham Rock

SINCE Peter Jones took over as chairman of the Tote 11 months ago he has initiated a review of all pool bets, and the first fruits of that analysis were revealed yesterday when he announced that the Tote Trio, which requires punters to pick the first three horses past the post in any order, is to be replaced by the Trifecta. This sets back a much harder task to select the first three horses home in correct order. The wager will be offered only once a day, on the most difficult race to solve, and the new bet will be

launched on the Vodafone Stewards' Cup at Goodwood on August 1, with a guaranteed pool of £100,000. The Trio had been disappointing recently, attracting only 2.56 per cent of total turnover. In Australia and New Zealand, the Trifecta produces more than a quarter of total turnover. "The Tote Trifecta will generate large pools, with the potential for roll-overs, which can develop great momentum, build quickly, and offer the opportunity for a big return on a modest stake," Jones said. "We are concentrating on two markets, the occasional punter who wants a substan-

tial dividend for a small stake, and the more professionally-minded, who will feel there is a large element of skill involved."

One bet which might be worthy of scrutiny in the future is the dual forecast, in which backers are required to nominate the first two horses in either order. In Hong Kong an identical bet, the Quintella, is responsible for about half of that country's massive turnover, but in Britain it is challenged by the straight forecast (the first two in correct order) which is offered by bookmakers, based on computer-calculated dividends. There is no reason why the Tote should not dispense with the dual forecast, and replace it with a straight forecast. Punters yearning after the former bet would need to halve their stakes and place two bets to enjoy the equivalent, but a change would enable the Tote to compete on equal terms with the High Street betting offices.

Michael Stoute will make a decision today on Exbury's participation in the Coral Eclipse at Sandown on Saturday. "She's unlikely," he said. "I will speak to the owners in the morning, but it looks as though the ground will be against her." The sponsors withdrew Exbury from their ante-post list and have cut her stable companion, Instabile, to 100-30.

Go overboard with Cromer Pier

NOW is the time of year when three-year-olds begin to make an impact against their elders and those patient enough to wait until the Breydon Water Handicap at Yarmouth this evening should find Cromer Pier (5.50) an attractive bet, writes Graham Rock.

Mark Tompkins' colt had three races in maiden company, showing promise behind the high-class Dittat at Newmarket in April. He ran respectably last time when fourth of 13 to Tigul-

Ho at Windsor nine days ago, his first venture into handicap company, over a mile and a half, staying on from the rear in the final two furlongs.

Despite a pedigree that suggests he might be suited by shorter, Cromer Pier's style of running suggests he should be suited by the extra two furlongs of tonight's race, and given a little improvement on his latest effort he should be too good for Seas Woods' Brighton winner, Benjamin Franklin.

Redcar seven-race programme

GRAHAM ROCK	TOP FORM
2.15	2.15
3.15	3.15
3.45	3.45
4.15	4.15
4.45	4.45
5.15	5.15

Left-handed, galloping track of 11m with 5f run-in. Straight mile. College Good to Soft, in places. * Denotes blinkers. Drums: Middle to high numbers best at up to 1m. Seven days winners: 4.15 Treasures Island, 2.15 Double Two, 2.45 Sandcastle, Bow Ball, 3.15 Grand Estate, 4.15 Dingo, 4.45 Dingo, 5.15 Dingo, 5.45 Dingo.

2.15	2.15	2.15	2.15	2.15	2.15
1101	403	403	403	403	403
1102	403	403	403	403	403
1103	403	403	403	403	403
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1124	403	403	403	403	403
1125	403	403	403	403	403
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1200	403	403	403	403	403

2.45		SOUTH SHIELDS CLAIMING STAKES 3YO	
		6f £2,416 (12 declared)	
1 (10)	8-0605	Camelion Castle (7) T Ewart	8-13
2 (2)	04-000	Devonshire (16) J R Guest	8-13
		K. Wootley 87 L. Charnock 87	

